

Bicycle down the old Foreigner's Hutong for a glimpse of a little European architecture.

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Meet Li Tiehu, a Capital Museum researcher with an eye for the past.

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Join in the celebrations of the 1,300th anniversary of Li Bai's birth, the greatest romantic poet of the Tang Dynasty.

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City to Investors: No Need to Worry



City Vice Mayor
Zhang Mao

Beijing won't pull the plug on preferential policies to foreign investors with China's entry to WTO, a city official said on Monday.

The capital city will build a better investment environment, pledged Vice Mayor Zhang Mao, soliciting foreign investment in high-tech ventures and infrastructure projects. There would be no new preferential policies, he said.

The vice mayor proclaimed foreign investment procedures would be streamlined. He made the pronouncement at the fifth session of the 11th Beijing People's Congress.

In 2001, 159 of the world's top 500 ventures had invested in Beijing and by last September a total 5,049 foreign-funded enterprises had become operational in Beijing.

The capital encourages multinational corporations to establish their regional headquarters and research and development centers in the city. (Xinhua)

Photo by Chen Tieliang

Ghost of Enron

Beijing office seems to vanish,
accountants out for meetings

By Zhao Hongyi

Enron has vanished from Beijing and nobody seems to know where it went. The monster oil corp which once boasted offices in every corner of the globe seems to have packed up six months ago and left without a trace.

Before bankruptcy, the oil, gas and power giant ranked 16th on the Fortune 500 list, with an annual turnover exceeding \$100.7 billion. The company posted major losses on Oct. 16 and declared bankruptcy on December 2.

The collapse cost the life savings of thousands of US workers and the scandal reverberates through the White House, the stock market, Arthur Andersen Accounting Agency and the suicide of a top Enron executive. But in Beijing today, Enron is a ghost company.

The Enron website mentions the Chengdu Cogen Project, a cooperative joint venture with Sichuan Electric Power Company in Chengdu, Sichuan Province. The 284-megawatt coal-fired power plant was expected to convert to natural gas three years after opening operations. Its fate is unknown.

Beijing Today tried to track down the ghost.

Hunting headquarters

Our reporter first contacted the commercial office of the US Embassy in Beijing and was given two telephone numbers for the Silver Tower office building at the southeast corner of San Yuan junction on the Third Ring Road.

But when his reporter called, he was told Enron had moved out of its headquarters. The office in the Silver Tower along the eastern third ring road now belongs to two new companies: Berlington Resources and Jian Yu Lu Yang.

At the embassy's recommendation, Beijing Today contacted the American Chamber of Commerce in Beijing. A representative, who gave her name only as Yin and declined further identification, told Beijing Today Enron had once been involved in China's oil and gas exploration industry.

"Enron used to be our member in previous years," she said. "But they did not register their annual membership in the new year, thus withdrawing from any contact with our chamber."

Yin apologized saying she could not provide any information on Enron China. "We renew our members' profiles on a yearly basis, which means we don't have any information on Enron China at all."

Beijing Today called Beijing Silver Tower Real Estate Development, the property owner of Silver Tower. "Enron China moved out six months ago. We do not know where the company is now," a Silver Tower Real Estate Development office spokeswoman said.

Beijing Today called the US Embassy again, seeking an interview.

"We can only provide you these telephone numbers and we cannot give any comments on this issue at this particular time," said a commercial office employee.

Bookkeepers gone to meetings

Still seeking any Enron information, Beijing Today contacted Arthur Andersen, the oil giant's accountants at their office in the China World Trade Tower in Beijing.

Shortly after the scandal broke, Arthur Andersen Beijing had issued a press release stressing the company's cooperation with US investigating agencies on the case and stating it would not affect its business in China.

"All our heads at all levels are gathering for meetings this week and I cannot arrange any interview with our management group," said Echo Chen, marketing assistant in the company's Beijing office.

"But I'll inform you if our boss wants to make any remarks some day in the future," said Chen.

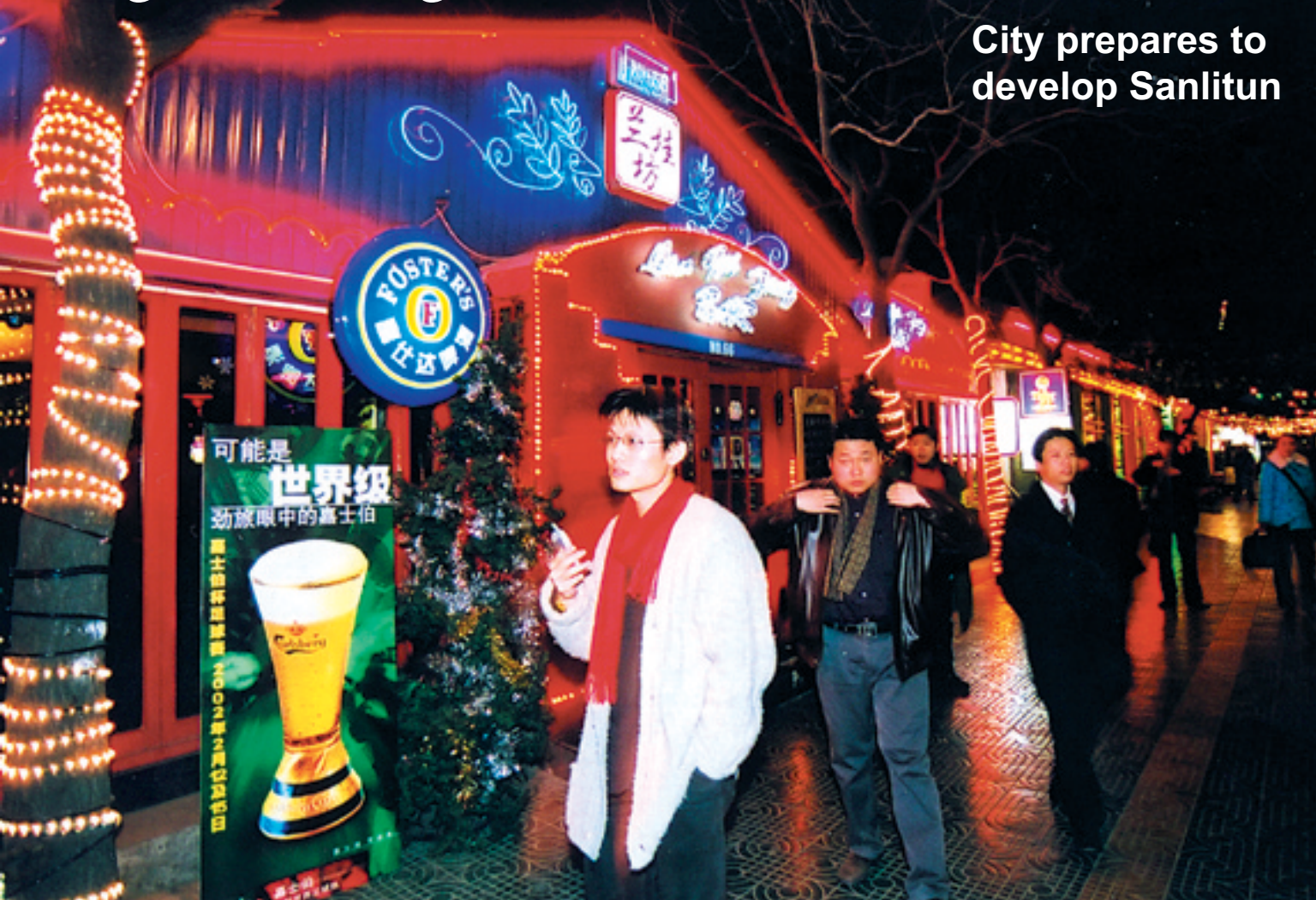
Arthur Andersen has been in China since 1979.

On the occasion of the spring festival, Beijing Today will merge the February 8 and February 15 editions as a special issue with 24 pages. The issue will be off the press on February 8.

EDITOR: LIU FENG DESIGNER: PANG LEI

Bye Bye Bar Street

City prepares to
develop Sanlitun



Sanlitun, once a small village three li from Dongzhimen gate, is today a popular tourist attraction

Photos by Qu Liyan



The plan under consideration is to replace the popular bar strip with hotels, residential housing, office buildings and any of today's bars that want to reopen in a new entertainment complex



1. Sanlitun North Bar Street
2. Sanlitun South Bar Street
3. Workers' Stadium
4. City Hotel
5. Auto Parts Street
6. Zhaolong Hotel
7. Gongti Beilu
8. Changhong junction
9. East Third Ring Road

By Annette Kossow

Five years of rumors finally ended with the announcement this week that Beijing is to demolish south Sanlitun bar street in favor of office, residential and entertainment buildings.

"It is difficult to give the exact time when work will begin," said Liu Yong, director of Sanlitun Subdistrict Office. But south bar street would be gone by the end of the year, Liu predicted.

Residents of three Nan Sanlitun buildings were told their unsafe 1950s housing would be demolished. About 60 percent have accepted their compensation and moved out. More residents will be moving out at spring festival, said Wu Xue, a resident of East Building No. 6 of Nan Sanlitun.

Sanlitun No. 1 Primary School and the Beijing Institute of Clothing Technology-attached middle school will also be demolished.

"When the comprehensive facilities are completed, then the two schools might move back," said Liu.

South Sanlitun will be redeveloped by the Chaoyangu Real Estate and Beijing Jushi Real Estate companies. The blueprint at a recent city committee meeting calls for residential housing, office buildings and "Paris City", an entertainment-cum-bar complex.

"The first and second floor of the future Paris City will gather a group of bars, and the old Sanlitun bars can also come back," said Liu.

Meanwhile a new bar district "All Nations Customs Garden" might open in Chaoyang Park, said a planning management bureau official of Chaoyang District.

"But this is just speculation. Nothing substantial is on the table," said Liu. Since its presentation at a recent city planning meeting, the bar street blueprint has been forwarded to the Planning Commission for final examination and approval.

Full Link Group plans to develop north Sanlitun bar street "in the undecided future", said Liu. This does not necessarily mean the north bar street will be demolished, he said. He did not rule out the possibility.

Owners eye future

Hearing his historic street would be demolished, the owner of Huxley's

Bar said he found this hard to believe.

"It will be very difficult to retain the essential character and reputation of this street," said Gao Lei.

Durty Nellies bar owner Li Yusong said he would just build a bigger bar if the old one had to be destroyed. "I will make my decision in the future when things are clearer. Nobody in the bar street right now knows the future. We don't know the plan."

Huxley's patron Clinton Frikken seemed unimpressed. "I'd prefer the bar street wasn't knocked down," he said. "Just rebuild the original buildings. Also I don't want an expensive comprehensive building offering expensive drinks."

"And if the bar street has to be pulled down, the whole street should all move together, so people can jump from one bar to the other in one night."

Another Huxley's drinker who refused to be named said he worried about whether the original character of the bar street might be lost.

Residents ready

"This moving will bring better housing conditions, because it is surely not very comfortable for living in the unsafe buildings and surrounded by noise sometimes," said Wu Shifan, a 54-year-old resident living in the East Building No. 6 of Nan Sanlitun.

"Residents, especially those who have larger housing and can obtain compensation of more than 6,000-8,000 yuan per square meter feel satisfied to move."

He will move to Panjiayuan at spring festival. "The facilities and the area of the new house are much better than the old one," he said.

Wu Xue, 22, has lived next to Durty Nellies Irish Pub for seven years. She said when a foreigner was killed in a scuffle outside a bar in the spring of 1999, it panicked some residents.

Bar street noise at weekends used to upset residents about five or six years ago until new measures were introduced, said Mr. Yuan, a manager at Comma Bar. Now residents have few complaints, he claimed.

"Sanlitun Bar Street didn't come into shape by government policy" said Yuan. It has existed for 10 years and left a deep impression on both Chinese and foreigners."

Beijing Transportation Center Aims to Ease Congestion

By Xiao Rong

The new Beijing Transportation Development Research Center (BTDR) came into being last week to act as a think tank to the Beijing Municipal government in solving the capital's transportation problems.

Focusing on the overall planning, construction, operation and management of Beijing's transportation system, the center aims

to map out a long-term transportation strategy for the capital, according to Quan Yongshen, director of BTDR.

"Besides long-term planning and operation, a monitoring system will also be set up to analyze the status of urban transportation so that instant adjustments can be made in times of emergency," Quan told Beijing Today.

Quan also emphasized that the

center will try to attract excellent human resources worldwide by promoting a flexible employment system. Experts in the field of transportation planning and management will be appointed to be responsible for specific projects after assessment by the executive council of the center.

The restructuring of the track traffic program in Beijing will be an important task of the center in

the near future, said Quan.

Research on key transportation policy, solutions to some transportation bottlenecks like Zhongguancun and CBD area, and the emergency capacity of urban transportation facilities are the other focuses of the center.

Statistics show that the total amount of motor-driven vehicles in Beijing reached 1,698,500 in 2001, with an annual increase

of over 15% in the past ten years. Among the rapid growth of motor-driven vehicles, the annual increase of privately owned automobiles ranged from 40% to 50%.

"The total population of 13 million in Beijing as well as the sharp increase of motor-driven vehicles have exerted great pressure on the transportation system of the city, which led to the founding of the center," said Quan.

Crackdown Launched on Illegal Motorcycles

By Ivy Zhang

A campaign has been launched against the illegal purchase and driving of motorcycles by foreign students in Beijing. Specific measures were declared at a special meeting this Tuesday.

People from Division of Exit-Entry Administration of Beijing Public Security Bureau (DEEABPSB), Beijing Traffic Control Bureau and foreign affairs office of universities and colleges in Beijing were present at the meeting.

There are currently 20,000 plus foreign students in Beijing. In a survey conducted among 20 colleges and universities in Haidian district in 2001, a total of 65 motorcycles were found without license plates. "We've come to a critical time: non-licensed motorcycles must be cleared," said a spokesman from DEEABPSB.

Existing motorcycles in the possession of foreign students are either handed down from departing students or purchased from the black market surrounding the campus. The bikes are mostly worn-out and in poor working condition without legal plates (bearing no plate or fake plate bought from Hebei province bearing the character indicating Hebei 冀). Most foreign students have no driver's license issued by the Chinese authorities.

Foreign students driving non-licensed motorcycles have caused serious problems. From September 2000 to the end of 2001, 13 motorcycle accidents occurred.

To address this situation, motorcycles on campus and the black market are to be targeted. Traffic control on the road will be enhanced during a two-month-long consolidated clear up (from February 1 to March 31).

Chinese Regulations on Motorcycles

General articles:

* An automotive vehicle is forbidden to run on the road if it has no license plate or driver's license issued by vehicle administrations after undergoing examinations.

Articles on motorcycles:

* Maximum speed limit: Two-wheel and three-wheel motorcycles, when running in the city's streets, cannot exceed the speed of 50 km/hr. While on main roads, the limit is 60 km/hour. Light motorcycles can't exceed 30 km/hr.

* Motorcycles with Beijing 京B plate or a plate issued by other cities than Beijing is prohibited to run on roads within the boundary of the fourth ring road (exclusive of side roads).

* Motorcycles bearing plates issued by other cities than Beijing can run within the fifth ring road but a driving permit is needed.

Articles on plate registration:

* A Person who is resident for more than one year may apply for motorcycle registration by presenting a "Residence Permit".

* People should purchase second-hand motorcycles through the second-hand motorcycle transaction market and handle ownership transfer within 30 days.

Fines:

* According to related regulations, those who drive automotive vehicles without a driver's license shall be detained within 15 days and a fine of less than 200 yuan shall be imposed.

* Those who drive automotive vehicles without a license plate or permit shall be fined less than 50 yuan or given a warning. In addition, the driver's license can be evoked for three months.

(Excerpts)



The flyover that runs through the command center

Photo by Qu Liyan

Urban Light Railway to Run Through Command Center

By Xiao Rong

The fantasy of running a light railway through a building will come true this year in the downtown area of Beijing.

The Xizhimen station of Beijing Light Railway, which was originally planned to be built underground, will have to be constructed over ground to save project expenses. According to the new plan, the line will pass through the command center of the light railway.

A flyover is currently under construction, passing through the space between the third and fourth floor of the command center. To

guarantee the safety of the building, measures to reduce vibration and noise have been taken during the construction.

"It's routine to put light railway stations located in downtown areas underground to minimize construction disturbance to urban traffic. But it will also cost more this way," said Cui Zhijie, general engineer of Beijing Urban Engineering Design & Research Institute, also chief designer of the light railway project.

About 100 million yuan will be saved by moving the Xizhimen station over ground, according to Cui.

"However, restructuring of the command center is necessary because of the change. But due to space restrictions, we will have to split the command center by running the light railway through it."

"Noise screens and strengthening blocks will be set up along the tracks of the light railway," said Cui. "And we will try to minimize the side effects of the new plan to the nearby Xizhimen traffic hot spot."

Of the 16 stations of the urban light railway, only Dongzhimen station, the terminus, will remain underground according to the new plan, said Cui.

Former Sports Stars Promote Non-profit Program

By Xiao Rong

The smiles on the faces of four mentally handicapped children had never shone so brightly as when they met with their former Olympic champion idols on Monday.

The four sports stars, namely Edwin Moses, Nadia Comaneci, Mark Spitz and Nawaiei Moutawakel, attended the reception held by the Greek Embassy in China after visiting Beijing's Xicheng District School for the Mentally Handicapped on Monday morning.

The four, also representatives of the World Sports Academy, were on tour to promote mentally handicapped Chinese for the Unified Sports Program as part of the global charity programs of the Laureus Sport for Good Foundation.

"It's my first time to see with my own eyes the great Olympic stars like Moses and Comaneci. My dream is to become Michael Jordan and Wang Zhizhi in the future," proudly said Wang Xiaoyu, a 20-year-old basketball player at the school.

Xin Yue, a 14-year-old girl who participated in the Special Olympics World Games as a gymnast told Beijing Today that she felt so privileged to be coached by Comaneci during her visit to her school.



Moses presents a gift to Mr. Joannis, ambassador of Greece to P.R.C.

Photo by Chen Shuyi

Comaneci told Beijing Today that this was her second time to Beijing, after an initial trip in 1978.

"I'm happy to be here in China after so many years. We had a great time here in Beijing with the mentally handicapped kids, but a great time is not enough. I hope everyone will take part in this project," she said.

Meanwhile, Moses and Spitz are both first-timers to Beijing. "We have been to the Great Wall and the Forbidden City, it's really

wonderful. But I do hope to enjoy a bicycle tour to Beijing in the 2008 Olympics," Moses told Beijing Today.

Almost ten programs worldwide have been supported by the Laureus Sport for Good Foundation under the help of the World Sports Academy; this is the first time for the China program to be launched, according to Moses.

"We aim to help mentally handicapped children to develop both physical fitness and mental confidence," said Moses.

Railway Price Hike Limited

China's central authorities announced they would limit the railway ticket price increase during the Spring Festival holiday, in accordance with public opinion.

The Ministry of Railways originally planned to raise hard seat prices by 30% during the holidays. But the State Development & Planning Commission (SDPC) organized a hearing, the first of its kind in China, on January 12 in Beijing, where most of the consumer representatives showed their disagreement with the markup plan.

According to the final decision by the SDPC issued on last Sunday, authorized by the State Council, the range of any price change in hard seat tickets during the holiday should not exceed 15%. Hard sleeper tickets will see a rise of 25%, while soft sleeper tickets will go up by 35%.

In addition, such changes may be maintained for 20 days only, 13 days less than the period originally proposed by the Ministry of Railways.

The spokesman said that the SDPC would also organize a series of hearings for prices of air tickets and telecommunication charges. (Xinhua)

Graduate Student Applications Hit Highest Record

By Shan Jinliang

624,000 postgraduate applicants around China competed for 196,550 vacancies in the 2002 graduate entrance examination, the highest in history.

The number of postgraduate applicants has rocketed in recent years, with an annual increase rate of more than 30%, statistics from the Ministry of Education reveal.

"The craze for graduate school has a close relationship with the pessimistic job situation this year as bleak expectations of finding a job are compelling more people to take the exam," said Zeng Xiangquan, head of Labor and Personnel School of Renmin University.

Others attribute the craze to society's prejudice of "the higher the education, the higher the ability", which devalues academic credentials. This credential devaluation forces students to pursue the highest academic credentials possible while ignoring the importance of gaining experience.

Some students complain that job vacancies seem to be harder to secure than in previous years. IT positions, which account for the largest portion of job opportunities, have been sharply on the decrease due to the business recession of the industry, according to 51job.com, a top job recruitment website in China.

Chinese Officials to Receive Training in U.S.

By Zhu Shida

Chinese local leaders will have a chance to listen to talks by world leaders at the Arco forum at the J.F. Kennedy School of Government as part and parcel of its student body.

A cooperative MPA project between the Development Research Center of the State Council, Tsinghua University and Harvard University will bring them to Cambridge, Massachusetts, for intensive training.

A signing ceremony was held at the Great Hall of the People on January 18. Joseph Nye, the Dean of the Kennedy School, specifically flew to China and attended the signing ceremony.

The project will last five years. Each year, 60 Chinese local and national leaders will be trained in China for six weeks and in Cambridge for the second-phase training before they are granted the MPA degrees.

Chen Qingtai, Dean of the School of Public Administration at Tsinghua University, said it is highly necessary to bring to government officials new knowledge and help them cope with the changing public policy environment after China's accession into WTO.

Mainland and Hong Kong Build Free Trade Area

By Shan Jinliang

Hong Kong Financial Secretary Mr. Antony Leung consulted with Chinese Foreign Trade Vice-Minister An Min in Beijing last Saturday to discuss a new Free Trade Area between the Mainland and Hong Kong. Subjects covered included barter trade, service trade and investment facilitation.

Besides the Mainland-Hong Kong Free Trade Area, Premier Zhu Rongji said China was planning to establish a free trade area with ASEAN (Association of South and East Asia Nations) in a 2001 November ASEAN conference. The Mainland-Hong Kong Free Trade Area would serve as the prolog to a free trade area between China and ASEAN, said Wang Songqi, deputy director of the Financial Research Center at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

Leung's Beijing visit was to implement the suggestion by Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Tung Chee-hwa, which was pro-

posed to the central government last December. The scheme was widely seen as an attempt to resuscitate the slumping Hong Kong economy. The two sides agreed to meet again in Hong Kong in March.

The two sides will levy no tariffs on each other, according to Wang's prediction, and will work closer on financial services to facilitate trade, he said.

Theoretically speaking, the free trade area will be more likely to be initiated from the Pearl River Delta in Guangdong Province said Wang. With its rich experience in finance and transport, Hong Kong will see a robust economy when it is combined with Guangdong Province, with advantages in the manufacturing industry and the sharply rising rich consumer group, said Hong Kong's Chief Secretary for Administration Donald Tsang.

Experts say the Pearl River Delta has supported Hong Kong's service industry with finance, port and trade at the core.

Agilent Invests \$20M to Expand China's Wireless Market

By Yang Xiao

Agilent Technologies last Friday unveiled a \$20M package of initiatives aimed at developing and advancing China's wireless test and measurement solutions market.

Vice-president Guy Sene said the focus of this \$20M investment package would be directed at establishing strong local solutions and services delivery resources and capabilities in China.

Agilent's list of new initiatives for 2002 also include:

1. Building and expansion of its support businesses in China with increased investments in manpower, facilities and equipment in Beijing, Shanghai, and Shenzhen Service Centers to provide customers with best-in-class repair and calibration services.

2. Providing customized consulting and education services to address individual customers' business needs such as delivery of critical projects and staff training.

3. Creating China-specific solutions to address the technology needs of the local market, in particular system solutions and services which is one of the key China-specific solutions.

Wall's Promote Winter-consumption Ice cream

By Xiao Rong

Ice cream lovers can now enjoy a delicious new brand even in the depths of winter as Wall's (China) launches its 2002 in-home ice-cream product, Carte D'or.

"We are very confident about gaining the winter-consumption ice-cream market, as has been proved by the great popularity of Viennetta, the 2001 in-home product of Wall's," said Peter ter-Kulve, general manager of Wall's (China).

The sales volume of Viennetta in China in 2001 was three times more than had been expected. The year also saw a 60% increase of the sales in the Beijing area, according to ter-Kulve.

The annual ice-cream consumption per capita is 22 liters in America and 6-8 liters in Holland, while the number only reaches 1 liter in China. And the winter consumption of ice-cream is only 1/30 of the summer consumption in China, which shows the great market potential for Wall's, according to Wang Wei, vice manager of Wall's (China).

A series of new products will be launched in the March, announced Wall's (China).

Microsoft Announces Quarterly Revenue

By Yang Xiao

Microsoft announced a record revenue recently of \$7.74 billion for the quarter ended December 31, 2001, an 18 percent increase over the \$6.55 billion reported the previous year.

Operating income for the quarter was \$2.84 billion, including a \$660 million charge for estimated expenses in connection with consumer class action lawsuits. Including this charge, net income was \$2.28 billion. Diluted earnings per share for the quarter were \$0.41, including \$0.08 for the estimated charge.

"We reported record revenue this quarter on the strength of three very successful product launches. Windows XP, Xbox and MSN 7 are off to terrific starts. Additionally, our continued focus on cost control and efficiency really paid off in terms of our operating results," said John Connors, CFO at Microsoft.

INTERNET

Sina Sues Sohu For Plagiarism

By Xu Ying/Yang Xiao

A legal battle looms for the second time between China's two largest Internet portals since last September. Sina's management called a video conference to show reporters in Beijing, Guangzhou and Shanghai "evidence" of its allegations. Sina's action has been given widespread coverage in mainland newspapers.

Sina's claim

"For a long time, Sina has endured large-scale plagiarism and rights violations of our product resources, including text messages (SMS), finance and sports news," the company said in a statement on its Web site.

The Sina statement said the Beijing Second Intermediate People's Court had accepted the case. Court officials were not immediately available for comment.

Sina said it took legal action because Sohu used its rival's picture messages for mobile phone users.

Tong Mingyou, the lawyer responsible for this case told *Beijing Today* that they had informed Sohu that plagiarism at web site posting had been found last year. He urged Sohu to erase the relevant content immediately. But Sohu kept silent, forcing Sina to file the lawsuit. The Shanghai based law firm revealed that Sina would seek 300,000 yuan in compensation as well as an apology.

Sohu's response

Sohu denied the charges and warned to sue Sina for damaging its reputation. A Sohu insider told *Beijing Today* that the accusation was groundless. "There are no grounds for a lawsuit. Sina's action is severely damaging our company's reputation. Sohu has issued a statement to express our anger. We are also warning Sina to stop attempting to sidetrack the public's attention from Sina's internal problems."

"Sina started a public relations battle aiming to destroy Sohu's reputation. We reserve the right to take legal action against Sina for damaging Sohu's reputation," Sohu said in a statement just after Sina's press conference.

Sohu continued its attack, alleging it was Sina that had been stealing its content and short messages. In a prominent posting on its Web site, Sohu reject-



ed Sina's claims and accused its rival after Sina had failed to respond to Sohu's business challenge.

Fight to be continued

Analysts said Sina's legal action would hurt Sohu's reputation, as much media and public discussion would focus on the issue.

Both portals have posted a long list of "evidence" to support their claims of plagiarism and

copyright violation. Both are inviting Internet surfers to post comments in support of their allegations.

Analysts represented by China Internet Weekly chief editor Hu Yanping said the allegations were nothing new as the portals had been borrowing content from each other for a long time.

They said both portals were addressing the same target audience and had substantial over-

Chinese main portal Sina.com simultaneously announced last Thursday in three main Chinese cities that it had filed a lawsuit against its rival Sohu.com, accusing against of copyright violations

lap in the services they offered. Therefore, it would be difficult to say who was copying whom.

One analyst said the legal action was more PR activity and a "business trick".

The lawyer for Sina said Sina's legal action was meant to end irregular activities in the portal industry to create a level playing field.

After Sina, homeway.com.cn, one of China's biggest finance

vertical websites also filed a lawsuit against Sohu, asking for 300,000-yuan compensation on January 30. According to recent news Homeway has already won agreement with Sohu.

Sina shares gained 1.32 percent on the Nasdaq this Wednesday night finishing at \$1.54 after news of the legal action. Sohu shares registered a 2.61 percent loss at the close of trading at \$1.12.



Sina president Wang Yan criticizes Sohu (above), while Sohu CEO Charles Zhang (below) denies the charges and warns to sue Sina for damaging Sohu's reputation

Photos by Jin Lei

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Nokia & Motorola Fight for No. 1

By Yang Xiao/Xu Ying

Nokia has just flooded the Chinese market with seven new handset models in one go. Nokia (China) president Colin Giles is confident that he will win back the biggest share of the Chinese mobile market. Although Nokia is currently beating Motorola around the world, it dropped behind its competitor in China last year.

Still pushing the old models

The Chinese mobile phone market became the battleground of fierce competition last year. Handset manufacturers launched many new models. Nokia initially only supported two or three models in China, but later adding two older models, the Nokia range began to sell reasonably. The former president of Nokia (China) admitted

that sales in the second and third quarter had begun to flag.

In the global market, however, although Nokia's market share fell from 35.3% to 33.45%, it still holds the lead over Motorola by 20%. In China Motorola occupies pole po-



"We will win in six months," said Giles

sition, with Nokia only taking about a 30% market share falling behind Motorola.

Inside Nokia some employees also confessed that Motorola's V998, V60, and V66 launch last year dealt a severe blow to Nokia, according to a newspaper in South China.

Rally

The new president Colin Giles is unwilling to take Nokia's second position in China lying down. "After six months we will get back first position," he vowed. Giles, 38, propelled Nokia to the No.1 sales position in Australia in 1993 after just one year in the country. After that he spent two years taking Nokia to the top in Taiwan. This year he's come to the Chinese mainland.

The beginning of 2002 seems to be a period of recovery strategies for Nokia. It launched the 7650 set that supports a digital camera, the 5510 that adds entertainment functions and the 5210 for sports, and especially the 9210 with various communication functions. "We are specifying the handset market. This year a lot of people will change their handsets. Attracting their eyeballs is a tough task. But we

have to find creative ideas to attract consumers," Giles said.

In infrastructure, Nokia opened its new plant in Beijing Development Area last December. The cooperation project with Chinese main handset provider Capitel is valued at ten billion yuan.

However for these global giants ten billion yuan seems a small amount: Motorola announced that in five years it would invest ten billion dollars in China.

Who will win this year?

Nokia announced a statistic. It had sold 160 million handsets in China by the end of last year. China has become the second biggest market for handsets in the world, an opportunity Nokia dare not neglect.

But the fact remains that Nokia has dropped behind on the CDMA handset market. After China Unicom launched the CDMA market, only Motorola got a license for manufacturing CDMA handsets.

Other joint venture manufacturers cannot touch this field for the foreseeable future. Those not invited to the party include Nokia. Giles says, "We will concentrate on value added service. This year service has already become a hot point. It certainly can take profits for mobile service providers. Nokia is going to strengthen on this point."



Salesman Zhang Bin is pushing both Motorola and Nokia handsets, "the two brands are the most popular"

Photo by Chen Shuyi

Breakfast Project Arouses Investor Enthusiasm

By Zhao Hongyi/Su Wei

Beijing's 13 million inhabitants eating their fill in the early morning has been always a headache to the capital.

The municipal government has been preparing for a fundamental change for years and concrete measures have been taken from the beginning of the New Year. And they are quite shocked by the echoes coming out of the country and from abroad.

Due to historical problems, breakfast has been supplied by individual business operators, who lack professional and up to date management, facilities and capital. This has brought problems such as poor hygiene, overrunning of public space, and environmental degradation.

Breakfast has been famous for its zero profit. Due to the low prices the public is used to paying, individual and chain store operators can hardly break even from the early morning trade.

Hua Tian Food & Beverage has been providing breakfast since 1997 and has struggled to hold the market for the past five years.

"Within the company, breakfast is a money losing business," said Mr. Jia, deputy general manager of Hua Tian. "We have to take hundreds of thousand of yuan to subsidize the breakfast sector each year."

"We take breakfast providing as a brand-building activity. We use it as a channel to enhance our relations with the public; it's much cheaper than doing commercials."

Yong He King, a fast food chain restaurant group from Taiwan, does not put its profit expectation on breakfast.

"Most customers usually choose the simplest breakfast options in the morning due to limited time available," said Zhang Lan, deputy general manager of Yong He King. Breakfast occupies only 1/5 of the total revenues of the chain stores. Nearly 80% of its daily sales come from lunch and dinner.

Experience in Shanghai pro-



Breakfast problem used to be a headache to the local government of Beijing. Fundamental changes are expected

Photo by Zhuang Jian

vides an example of success. Low pricing outlets are exempted from taxation, half-exempted from city management fees and not subjected to traffic access restrictions in the downtown area. In addition, the Shanghai government also provides zero interest rate credit to qualified operators.

According to the municipal statistics, the permanent population in downtown Beijing is 6.7 million. Suppose each person spends two yuan on his or her breakfast, the minimum cost for a breakfast in the city, the pie can be as big as 130 million yuan.

By January 30, the deadline for merchant certificate application, more than 140 business operators applied. Some promise an invest-



Yong He King provides an direction to the implementation of "Breakfast Project"

Photo by Zhuang Jian

ment over 100 million yuan.

Such interest has come as quite a surprise to the local authorities.

"An investment group consisting of ten businessmen from Taiwan are preparing to open a new business here and informed us they would be carrying out an

initial market study in Beijing soon," said an official from the division, who declined to give her name over the telephone.

"We'll approve at least 200 outlets. Public tendering started late last year," said Mr. Yin Xucai, consuming affairs division chief of the municipal commercial committee.

The municipal government is preparing to issue licenses to outlets and locations where breakfast is sold and distributed, and to authorize the rights for science and technology research on breakfast too.

The local government has come to realize the breakfast market is not a headache, but rather a great business opportunity, depending on how you look

at it and manage it.

Aside from overseas investors, businessmen from the mainland also expressed an interest in the market. Officials hold a positive attitude towards these potential investors, saying they will bring numerous regional dishes from the whole country to the capital.

But Mr. Yin also warned of the importance of quality.

Some applicants believe with government's support, things are much easier to handle.

"You have to take a number of issues into consideration, such as city planning, public health, industry and commerce management, taxation and environment.

"One word, quality," Mr. Yin concluded.

Private and Foreign Capital Invited to Build Parks

By Zhao Hongyi

Beijing welcomes private and foreign investment to participate in the construction of community parks, a priority of the development of hundreds of residential communities over the next few years, according to sources from the Municipal Bureau of Parks & Landscape (BBPL).

Initiated in the city's tenth Five Year Plan (2001-2005), the capital will focus on the building up of residential communities, aiming at improving the quality of life for its habitants.

A basic requirement in the initiative is that each residential community contains at least one park, which means that within

a 500 meter-diameter area, one park, at least, should be open to the public.

Experts believe at least 500 small-scale parks need to be built in the next few years.

The construction of such a large number of small-scale parks goes beyond the capacity of the local government. It declared this week that private and foreign investment in park construction will equally enjoy national treatment. Potential investors can obtain the naming rights of the parks to be built, if they choose to.

Detailed regulations and legal clauses are under drafting at present.



At least 500 small-scale parks in residential communities like this will be available in the next few years.

Photo by Zhuang Jian

Car Rentals Drop as Car Sales Rise

By Jiang Zhong

Car rental companies in Beijing are falling on hard times after many of their clients have bought a car since the dramatic fall of automobile prices on the local market.

Small companies that depend largely on local clients have been most hit. However, larger companies with diverse client groups have largely remained unaffected.

Jiao Wenli, manager of the car renting center of New Concept Car Renting Company, one of the largest of such companies in Beijing, said that the depression hadn't exerted a negative influence on her company. Company profits rose last year, said Jiao, especially during this holiday season, with all 2,000 cars leased out.



Larger car renting companies with diverse client groups have largely remained unaffected in the market strain

Photo by Zhuang Jian

The rental prices of various cars have remained unchanged for several years, said Jiao. The monthly rental for a Citroen Fukang is about 5,700 yuan, a price that had been adopted two years earlier.

Jiao explained that most local clients are still waiting for further drops in car prices to make a more cost-effective purchase of foreign cars. Thus impact on the local market has yet to be felt. In any case the local niche occupies no more than 50% of the company's business. Most of the company's income is derived from clients from other provinces, as well as big names like IBM.

Moving beyond the local market is the solution for Chinese car rental companies, which is the new trend in the industry.

Sports Insurance Strides Forward

By Jiao Pei

People's Insurance Company of China has offered a premium of 160 million yuan for the delegation of China to take part in the 19th Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, U.S.A. The domestic insurance industry will shift its emphasis to sports and the insurance products related to the sports industry.

According to the China Insurance and Supervisory Commission, the income of all domestic insurance business of 2001 was 210 billion yuan,

and individual life insurance income was 142 billion, 42 billion yuan more than that of 2000.

Belonging to the individual insurance business, sports insurance has great development potential due to the coming of the 19th Winter Olympic and the future 2008 Olympics in Beijing.

People's Insurance will also provide insurance services for the 14th Asian Games in South Korea. They also have supported the Pacific Insurance Cup, the international Four Countries Football Games in Guangzhou on January 23.

Venture Capital Investors and Intermediary Granted Special Treatments

By Jiao Pei

Intermediary and venture investment organizations will receive the same special treatment as the high and new technology industry and will receive special funds from the Beijing government according to the 28 regulations newly released by the Beijing government in practice from January 1st.

Compared with the 33 regulations released in 1999, the new 28 regulations have made some clear

breakthroughs. One is the expansion of policy range. In view of the national principle of WTO, medium and investment organizations will enjoy the same rights no matter how they are owned, domestic or overseas, under the central or local government.

The 1999 regulations only targeted the main body of the high tech and new tech industries. The new regulations now target the main sectors of the industry, including R&D of high tech, and investment services. A technology incubation fund will also be established.

JCB Plans to Issue Credit Cards in China

The Japanese JCB International Company is scheduled to issue credit cards in China, said Isao Nakanishi, chairman and chief executive officer of the largest credit card company in Japan here on Tuesday.

Under the guidance of the People's Bank of China, JCB plans to grant card-issuing licenses to some Chinese commercial banks including Bank of China, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, Agricultural Bank of China, China Construction Bank and Bank of Communications, he said.

"With the improvement of Chinese living standards, their spending habits are changing dramatically," he said, "more and more Chinese will use credit cards."

After China's entry into WTO, global companies issuing credit cards are faced with the "best opportunities" in China, he said.

Isao Nakanishi expressed his hope of expanding cooperation with Chinese financial organizations for issuing credit cards.

JCB issues credit cards in 18 countries and regions, with 38.08 million cardholders. The JCB card is accepted in 167 countries and regions.

(Xinhua)

Chinese, U.S. Firms Offer Real-Time Global Remittance Service

The Agricultural Bank of China (ABC) and the U.S. remittance giant Western Union now offer a real-time global foreign exchange remittance service, the first of its kind available on the Chinese mainland.

A spokesman for the bank said the service is available to residents in Shanghai and clients from outside China, and that the only currency that can be remitted out of China is the U.S. dollar for the time being.

Other freely changeable currencies should be changed into U.S. dollars before they are remitted to recipients in or outside China through the network of Chinese banks in China and the global network of the U.S. company.

According to regulations issued by the State Administration of Foreign Exchange Control, private deposits in foreign exchanges can only be remitted outside China on current account expenditure.

The spokesman said remitters who intend to remit less than \$10,000 worth of spot foreign currencies in a single deal can do so at the nearest designated ABC outlet.

But for remittance of \$10,000 to \$50,000, permission must be sought from the departments concerned, said the spokesman.

Only \$2,000 worth of freely exchangeable foreign exchanges can be remitted out of the country in a single deal for current account expenditure on cash accounts at ABC outlets.

For remittances above that figure and up to \$10,000, permission from the department concerned is needed, according to the regulations.

(Xinhua)

English School in Beijing Sets up Branch in Toronto

By Sun Ming

Beijing's renowned New Oriental School set up its first branch in Toronto, Canada recently. This is the first time that a Chinese private school has entered the overseas market.

The New Oriental School, established in 1993, is renowned for preparing students for tests they must pass to be accepted into overseas universities and graduate schools, such as TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language), GRE (Graduate Record Examination), GMAT (Graduate Management Admission Test).

"It's not easy for students to pass these exams," explains Wang Qiang, President of Beijing New Oriental Education and Technology, "GRE and GMAT are not simple tests of English language but advanced tests for graduate candidates."

Up to now, the branch in Toronto has attracted nearly 500 local students who hope to enjoy the benefit of New Oriental School's rich experience in this area.

A majority of students of New Oriental School have gained high marks in TOEFL, GRE, GMAT in the past eight years. In addition, there are always some stu-

dents who could obtain full scores in TOEFL each year.

"The new branch in Toronto is as good as the one in Beijing," says Wang. According to him, all of the teachers were either teachers or excellent students of New Oriental School. "Now most of them are studying abroad in America."

Dong Maomao, a software engineer in California, said she came back this time just in order to attend a GMAT training course held by New Oriental School. "It's a pity that I didn't know the news earlier," says she, "Compared with Beijing, Toronto is much nearer to California."

As to why New Oriental School chooses Toronto first, Wang said the city has lots of Chinese and Chinese Americans. At the same time, however, Wang indicated that no matter where a person comes from, he would need some training to pass GRE and GMAT. "I believe that our rich experiences and skills in these aspects are attractive to many foreigners."

Besides, Wang said they plan in the future to open Chinese programs at the school in order to meet the demands of Canadians who want to learn Chinese.

Euro Coin Albums Make Popular Gifts

By Su Wei

Sets of Euro coin albums are proving popular gifts for the ap-



Photo by Chen Shuyi

proaching Spring Festival.

In the past two weeks, some counters at Yimeijia Yuetan Stamp Market and Madian Coin Market have been selling up to 200 Euro coin album sets per day.

Young people see them as a fashionable item to give their friends, while older people see them as both an economical and instructive gift for their children.

Chinese people traditionally give money to children at Spring Festival. Nowadays grandparents usually give their grandchildren 100 yuan in a "hongbao", or red packet at Spring Festival. But each coin album, containing the eight Euro coins, each bearing the 12 star symbol of the European Union, sells for 55 yuan..

Where Are Our Resumes ?

By Jane Yang

At a recruitment fair in Beijing recently, scores of graduates' resumes were left discarded at the venue after the fair. Many students submitted their carefully designed resumes to the targeted companies, only to find they were simply thrown away.

Is it because that the graduates were not qualified or the resumes were poorly designed? In fact many of the rejected resumes were from graduates of Tsinghua University, Beijing Broadcasting Institute and some other top universities.

Many students felt insulted and hurt. While students understand that supply might exceed demand

in the current job market, they hope to build a mutual-respect relation with the employers. "I might be unqualified for the position, but still I don't like to see my resume discarded so carelessly," said Mr. Zhang, a graduate of Peking University.

Some HR managers said that they scanned all the resumes and selected those they wanted. "We want the fittest not the best," Ms. Li, a HR manager of a joint-venture software company, told Beijing Today. "We keep the resumes of those we cannot employ now. We are building our own talent data base, in case we want the relevant employees, we can contact them directly."



Photo by Huahua

The oldest tree in Beijing municipality is believed to be this 3,700-year-old conifer in Miyun County, according to the Beijing Forestry Bureau. The ancient tree, an oriental arborvitae, is closely watched over by the local forestry department and is still in good health.

The tree is 18-meters-high and its trunk has a diameter of 2.45 meters. Locals consider it to be an auspicious symbol and make a point of walking around it for good luck before setting out on a long journey.

According to the bureau, it's rare for a tree of this species to live longer than 2,000 years.

(Sun Ming)

Roller-Skating to Work

By Ivy Zhang

"I like to work hard and also to play hard," says CFO and Senior Vice President of Sohu.com's Beijing Head Office Derek Palaschuk. The 38-year-old Canadian exercises everyday and either jogs or roller-blades the three kilometers from his home to work and back.

In addition to running and swimming daily, Palaschuk's third hobby is organizing a local rugby tournament, with the aim of promoting the sport in China. Since coming to Beijing in 1994, he has been playing rugby with the Beijing Devils, an expat social rugby team founded in 1992.

"I like rugby because it is social. I also like the atmosphere in rugby," says Palaschuk. "I'm a small man. In rugby, you have fat men, short men, it's very interesting... The heart is the most important. You are not afraid."

He is not afraid on the rugby field and he is not afraid in the business arena. Palaschuk has over 15 years of financial experience including five years in Hong Kong working as an audit manager at Price Waterhouse Coopers and seven years in Beijing specializing in financial reporting and control systems. In June last year, Palaschuk joined Sohu "because Sohu was doing an IPO in the US and it is any accountant's dream to work with a publicly listed company."

Palaschuk is very satisfied with his job at Sohu, one of the largest Internet portal companies in China. "I love my job. If I could live in any city and work at any company, I'd be doing exactly what I'm doing right now." In his view, Sohu is a great company with unlimited opportunity. The Internet is an area of unlimited potential in China. There are some 30 million Internet users currently and this figure might grow to one hundred million in three or four years.

As a CFO at Sohu, Palaschuk's role and responsibilities are similar to those of his previous jobs in Canada and Hong Kong. The main difference is that he spends more time on staff training. Sohu's stocks are listed in the US, which has the world's highest standard of legal compliance, supervision, accounting and reporting. Palaschuk needs to ensure that the local staff follow international financial procedures.

In the United States, confidence in Internet companies has fallen, a fact that is reflected in Sohu's share prices there. The biggest challenge Palaschuk faces now is to help



Photos by Qu Liyan



make Sohu profitable.

2001 was a big year for Palaschuk. First, he was named CFO and senior vice-president in July, which he deems as his greatest career accomplishment. Then in November, he was married to a lovely Shanghai lady.

Palaschuk finds working in China a lot of fun. He says fostering relationships is very important in China. If you want to do business with someone,

you've got to have a good relationship. "By nature I'm a friendly person. I like meeting people and dining with them."

Palaschuk related a funny story about an experience he had here. Sohu's stocks are listed in the US, which restricts people in China from buying the stocks, because they need US dollars.

Many people in China believe that Sohu's stock price is too low, so they want to buy Sohu shares. One day, three farmers from Shunyi came to Palaschuk office saying they want to buy Sohu shares. After being refused by Palaschuk, they came back and offered with US\$200,000 they had collected from friends.

"It was interesting," he says, "they really believe in Sohu. This was so much money for them and they were willing to take that risk. I told them I couldn't do it. You know what the guys said to me? They said we will invite you to lunch! I told them I could not take their money because it's against the regulations. They left at last."

Five Million for Two Overpasses

By Chen Ying

The China International Exhibition Center has spent five million yuan building two pedestrian overpasses. This is the first time an enterprise has built an overpass at its own expense in Beijing.

The two bridges stand in front of the main entrance of the Exhibition Center on Shuguang Street and will soon be ready for public use.

The Exhibition Center has seen enormous changes since its opening in 1985. The area around the center is now one of the most prosperous business districts in Beijing, while the number of residential buildings has increased dramatically.

Exhibitions at the center frequently attract in excess of 100,000 visitors, so Shuguang Street often becomes a bottleneck for traffic. The two overpasses are expected to greatly relieve congestion and facilitate the freer flow of traffic in front of the center's main entrance. Assistant president of the center Yao Rui, says this will benefit visitors, merchants, employees, as well as local residents.

Usually the municipal government takes responsibility for building such public facilities. Sometimes enterprises participate by contributing part of the construction funds, entitling them to naming rights of the structure. However Yao says the center will not name the overpasses, which will be managed by the local government.

Finance Book for Kids Proves Big Hit

By Yang Xiao

Many Chinese parents are likely to give their children a book that introduces financial issues, along with money, as a lunar New Year gift this year.

Zhang Ping, mother of a 10-year-old boy told Beijing Today she considered giving a lot of money to her son at lunar New Year would spoil him, "I will take this book as a tool to give my child some advice on how to deal with his money."

Renown German financial expert Bodo Sch? He wrote the book, "A Dog called Money", which is being promoted by the Beijing Financial Literacy Training Center. It is his first children's book and has become an instant hit.

Well known child psychologist, Professor Jurgen Zimmer, comments, 'A Dog called Money' is a pioneering work that is long overdue. The book doesn't wag its finger; it gives children the chance to venture into an area of grown-up activity that was previously off-limits - that of earning money".

The Chinese version of the book was launched in Beijing last month and already 90,000 copies have been sold.



Flight Delayed by Pop Stars

By Sun Ming

Flight delays due to bad weather are nothing new, but a delay caused by a group of pop stars is rare.

Flight CA1356 from Haikou to Beijing, was scheduled to take off at 8:10 p.m. one day last week. However more than twenty pop stars insisted in moving from the economy section to first class, resulting in a one and a half hour delay of the flight.

The incident was videoed by one of the passengers on the plane. After embarking, the stars found that there were many seats unoccupied in the first class, so they tried to change their seats from economy to first

class without permission of the flight crew.

According to the co-pilot, passengers are not usually allowed to change their seats after they have embarked for safety reasons. If a passenger wants to upgrade his seat, he can do so when checking in. Passengers sometimes have the opportunity to upgrade after embarking. "But they must get permission from the flight crew," he said. "And such a large number certainly could not be permitted."

He says in the 30 minutes before passengers embark, the staff on duty calculate where the center of gravity of the plane will be, according to the passengers'

seating position and their baggage. If the position has been decided, passengers usually can't change their seat at random, otherwise the balance of the plane will be affected and the safety of the plane threatened.

However, the pop stars didn't think they were doing anything wrong during the delay, because they were prepared to pay more money.

On returning to their original seats, one female singer said angrily to a crewmember, "You have made me lose face." Other passengers on the flight were so angry about the delay caused by the pop stars that some even wanted to get off the plane.

Foreigners Take China Pulse

Student dissertations explore topical issues

By Chen Ying

Previous dissertations focused on China's history and language. But the spring class of 2002 foreign graduates had other ideas in mind.

Overseas students at the Business Chinese Department of the Chinese College, Beijing Language and Culture University hope one day to get a job in China, perhaps as the employee of a multinational corporation.

"The topics in recent years have increasingly involved Chinese current affairs," says Zhang Li, dean of the Business Chinese Department. Twenty-seven students participated in the oral examination of their dissertations at the Business Chinese Department this term. They spent two months preparing and writing the topics.

Caroline Andhika, Indonesia

For her paper on the Beijing residential housing market, Andhika designed a questionnaire of 100 Beijing residents.

The Beijing residential real estate market should improve technology, reduce the energy wastage and poorly designed buildings to bring better business development. The rather high price of Beijing residential accommodation comes in contrast to most Beijingers' income. Under such conditions, each side must give an inch to the other, and then the distance between price and purchasing power will be shortened. For instance, the government can cut taxes and banks can develop mortgages. Maybe through these efforts, the huge potential housing market in Beijing can one day start to work.



Tsunehiko Yoshihara, Japan

In "Analysis of China and Japan Trade Problems", Yoshihara starts by observing Japanese can find the "made in China" label anywhere in Japan. China's production has become a part of everyday Japanese life.

A fact that can be never changed is that China and Japan are neighbors, no matter what happens between the two countries. China and Japan have mutually dependent economies. There must be a means to resolve problems between the two countries if only the two governments remain patient and communicate.

According to the World Bank, China will overtake Japan and become the second-largest export country only after the USA in 2020. Thus it will become reality that China will be one of the most powerful countries in the world no matter its policy or economy. To build an excellent economic relationship is the wish of both countries.



Muhammad Adnan Aalam Qureshi, Pakistan

In "Thoughts on China's Graduate Employment", Qureshi uses abundant data to illustrate his opinions about graduates' difficulties in the future. He suggests graduates adjust their opinions about preferred occupations.

While it's true that it is difficult getting a job, it's easier if students adjust their attitude. The requirements of private companies have improved while traditional employment opportunities grow narrower. Smaller companies still need their share of elite employees while the larger companies pick and choose. The countryside is also worth considering if the city employment market is saturated.



Sulamanov Jamshid, Uzbekistan

China's western opening may be the most important economic issue in China over the next few years. Jamshid uses his own country as a point of comparison.

First, the biggest difference lies in energy and mineral resources. These projects all need investment and high technology. And it's also a serious question about what should be the dominant economic form during opening. The country likes to build large projects as China is a socialist country: the railroad between Tibet and Qinghai province, highways, water projects and environmental engineering.

Uzbekistan has many of the same problems as China: the market mechanism, the administration system and needing investment from other countries. But China's population and education are totally different. The Chinese government should think more about national solidarity, education and the improvement of culture and character during the opening process.



Class of 2002 make a field trip to Beilun Harbor, Ningbo, Zhejiang Province



Provided Zhai Bingying



Spot the Difference: top — Mercedes-Benz C-Class; bottom — Geely Haoqing

Geely and Goliath

Mercedes-Benz employs more than 199,000 people throughout the world. Parent DaimlerChrysler has more than 50 production and assembly plants, plus 6,300 service and sales support outlets for passenger cars and commercial vehicles.

China Geely Group employs nearly 10,000, specializing in car and motorcycle production.

Pirate or Pioneer?

Chinese car manufacturer adopts highest form of flattery

By Chen Ying

Geely Group rolled out the luxury Geely Haoqing for about 38,900 yuan last year. The private firm prided itself in the vehicle's delicate shape. But few analysts failed to note the vehicle's uncanny resemblance to a Mercedes-Benz.

Geely appeared to have violated DaimlerChrysler's patent, but the silence that followed from both companies on the issue was almost deafening. Finally, word got out:

Li Shufu, board chairman, China Geely Group

Geely has never denied it began by imitating, but that doesn't mean simply cloning other products. Imitation as we see it is a process of learning and absorbing others' successful experiences. Through this, we can avoid unnecessary difficulties at the beginning of industrial development. In developing their own car industry, South Korea learned from Japan, Japan learned from the USA and the USA learned from Europe. All of these processes formed the circle of vehicle development.

Geely after several years of struggle now owns its own independent patents. Actually Geely began from imitation, but only spent three years completing the development process where some car companies would need more than 10 years. So imitation doesn't mean cheating. On the contrary, it measures progress of a kind.

Spokesman, DaimlerChrysler

DaimlerChrysler is aware of design patents as one of the tools to protect its intellectual property against imitations. Therefore DaimlerChrysler has filed for a multitude of patents for its specific products, also in China. It is obvious that comparing the appearance of products with respect to their similarity is a very difficult task as is seen in different ways for different countries and their respective legislation.

For the above reason, DaimlerChrysler looks very carefully into each single case of possible design infringement taking into account the above-mentioned peculiarities in different countries and approaches these cases on a basis of not only a single country, but globally.

Wu Yingqiu, vice-chief editor, China Automotive News

I remember Geely applied for several patents to the State Intellectual Property Office of China last year. During the application process, DaimlerChrysler expressed its dissidence over two of Geely's patents to the administration. But after careful investigation, the office refused DaimlerChrysler's requirements and issued patents to Geely.

It's clear Geely's production is legal. Why is there still so much misunderstanding? It seems people are opinionated. They usually think the exotic is the best. It's unfair on Geely. After having absorbed others' merits, Geely has transformed these into their own ideas and technology. Li Shufu also said "no one car has five engines and two wheels," by which he means no matter how much you modify the shape, a car is still just a car. There isn't such an essential difference between every brand.

Style changes with the times. Sometimes people prefer a sharp and concise shape, while at other times they appreciate the smooth and flat. It's a trend. You can't say one manufacturer plagiarizes another.

Xia Guangwen, postgraduate, Department of Automotive Engineering, Tsinghua University

I think it's improper to consider imitation in the car industry as plagiarism. It's easy to judge whether a student plagiarizes another's article. But it's totally different in this case. It's more suitable to adopt the word 'reference' to describe this phenomenon. It's common to absorb others' merits in any industry.

The shape of an automobile embodies its aesthetic value. I would rather consider the shape as an art, not just manufacturing. Designers derive inspiration from others, more or less, as beauty is universal.

Manufacturers pay for referencing. For instance, Geely can absorb the shape of other brands, but it can't obtain the special dies from other companies. It's also impossible for DaimlerChrysler to show their core technology to others. Geely still needs to spend a great deal of time and energy to complete final production.

Liu Ning, employee, State Intellectual Property Office of China

The Law of Patent rules that the patent of a car's shape lasts ten years from its application date. If some patent is outside of this legal protection period, another manufacturer can use the content involved in this patent. Otherwise, the company owning the patent can sue others.

There is a long history of protecting patents in western countries. Multinational corporations will adopt these methods to protect their profits if there is really some violation.

SOUND BITES

"Theja mortuary is filled; they have started to use other local government facilities. It's a disaster. We did not anticipate it would rise to this level. Now we have seen the impact and it is a devastating one."

— Bola Ahmed Tinubu, Governor of the State of Lagos, Nigeria, after the Lagos armors explosion

"Is a short-term stimulus program needed? I'd say it is. I don't see any real evidence yet that the recession has ended. I think it is important to recognize that especially some sectors are still struggling. You still have a large number of people unemployed,"

— Tom Daschle of South Dakota, USA Senate Majority Leader

"He chose to embrace fanatics, and his allegiance to those terrorists never faltered. Terrorists did not compel John Walker Lindh to join them. John Walker Lindh chose terrorists. We may never know why he turned his back on our country and our values, but we cannot ignore that he did. Youth is not absolution for treachery, and personal self-discovery is not an excuse to take up arms against your country."

— John Ashcroft, USA Attorney General

By Chen Ying

VOICE UPDATE



How Beijing Today broke the story on December 7, 2001

Killer's Wife Left Alone

By Chen Ying

His appeal rejected, hammer killer Luo Feng was executed by gunshot on Friday morning, January 18 by order of Zhejiang Province Higher People's Court.

Luo left behind Zheng Xueli, his childless wife, who failed in her attempts to obtain legal permission to have their baby via artificial insemination.

Luo was sentenced by Zhoushan Intermediate People's Court on August 7 for the murder of Wang Ying, Zhoushan trading company vice manager. Luo battered his boss to death with an octagonal hammer after quarreling over a five-yuan fare on May 29 last year.

Zheng had wanted to have their baby through artificial fertilization, but Zhoushan Intermediate People's Court refused the day after her husband's death sentence.

Zheng submitted a written request to Zhejiang Province Higher People's Court on November 12, which forwarded the suggestion to the Supreme People's Court. The court didn't respond.

Zheng and Luo's mother were permitted to see Luo at Dinghai Detention Center and leave before his execution.

It was the first case of its kind in China and a popular topic around the country with newspapers reporting the case. Debates filled the Internet and legal experts offered different points of view. But for Zheng and Luo, the debate is over.

Beijing, Shanghai, and Shenzhen Leading China's Innovative Economy

By Su Wei
Beijing, Shanghai and Shenzhen form a golden triangle in innovative economic development.

The Great Wall Enterprises Institute has completed a study on the three cities, looking at financial conditions, human resources, science and technology, innovative services, internationalization standards, informatization as well as economic structures.

China's innovative economy golden area

The three cities Beijing, Shanghai and Shenzhen form an isosceles triangle, covering most of the areas that have achieved development success in the period of economic reform.

The study reveals that Beijing has the largest potential in the innovative economy; Shanghai has strengthened its position as the leading production base in China; and Shenzhen attracts the most scientific and technological human resources.

It also predicts that Beijing will become an intellectual and innovative economy center in the Asia-Pacific region; Shanghai will focus on international operations and business center as well as the base; Shenzhen will concentrate on becoming the world's leading information production center.

Shenzhen has the strongest financial support

Although Shenzhen is newly developed compared with Beijing and Shanghai, it has won much stronger financial support.

The reason may be that Shenzhen started opening to the outside world much earlier. Salaries are higher and people have more savings.

Also there are more listed companies in Shenzhen than in Beijing or Shanghai.

Meanwhile, enterprises in Shenzhen have sought to stream-

line their management and operations, with increased input in science and technology.

Now the investment system in Shenzhen is characterized by multiple channels directed at science and technology.

Shanghai lags behind in scientific and technological efficiency

The number of scientific research institutes and multinational companies in Shanghai is slightly lower than Beijing. The input in science and technology and the number of patent applications in Shanghai are also lower than in the other two cities.

Beijing's status as the national capital, its long history and large number of universities is an advantage here.

Shanghai is a city with traditional industries. But more considerations have been given to speeding up the development of those pillar industries relating to production and optimizing of structures.

Shenzhen, although it was a fishing village prior to 1980, has made great efforts in strengthening ties between research institutes and enterprises.

Innovative services proper in Beijing

Beijing is seen as having the best service environment for innovative industries as a whole, though Shanghai and Shenzhen both have a greater number of Certified Public Accountants and financial organizations.

The reason may be that since 1999 the project of establishing and developing Zhongguancun Science Park has been a key focus of the central government, Beijing municipal government is also devoted to developing this area and turning it into an intellectual center in China.

But Shanghai has set its developing strategy in the modern service industries such as finance, espe-

cially in the Pudong area, where the Fortune Forum was successfully held.

The institute urges both the central government and the local Shenzhen government to keep up the city's development momentum in order to maintain its ability to compete with others.

Beijing offers the greatest potential for start-up enterprises

Beijing has the largest number of incubators and people involved in start-up enterprises per million compared with Shanghai and Shenzhen.

It suggests that start-up enterprises are the main economic development model in Beijing, unlike the two other cities.

Specifically, Beijing has focused on Zhongguancun Science Park. As an intellectual intensive area, more research and development institutes are expected to be attracted.

So Beijing will establish its status as an international high tech city.

High level of internationalization achieved in Shenzhen

Shenzhen is seen as the most internationalized city, followed by Beijing and then Shanghai. However, Beijing is more attractive to international tourists and Shanghai has the highest number of people employed in international services.

It may be due to the fact that Shenzhen has long been open to the outside world and is characterized by its export-oriented economy; Beijing is seen as an international tourist attraction, while Shanghai concentrates on internationalization, especially in international labor cooperation.

Beijing ranks highest in informatization

In informatization, Beijing has surpassed Shanghai and Shenzhen with the largest number of Internet users and registered domain names. Shenzhen has the

largest number of mobile phone users.

Beijing has an unshakable position as the governmental information center.

The wide use of mobile phones reflects that Shenzhen, as a young city, is characterized by its embracing of modern consumption trends.

Beijing and Shenzhen both have more suitable economic structure

Beijing is able to provide the highest standard of technological services and Shenzhen has the biggest high-tech production.

This suggests that Beijing has the advantage in terms of innovative potential, due to the comparatively high number of scientific and research institutes.

But Shenzhen is strong in terms of high-tech production industries, due to its high level of foreign investment.

Innovative area will expand outside Beijing

The center of Beijing innovative economy center is Zhongguancun Science Park, but some rural areas in Beijing also have actively attracted universities, research institutes and some collective scientific and technological enterprises to put their research results into practice.

The circle of Beijing high tech industry area will be expanded along the Beijing-Tianjin - Tanggu highway, taking in the Langfang Economic Development Area, Tianjin High-tech Development Area, Tianjin Economic Development Area and Tianjin Port Economic Development Area.

Shanghai has three economic expansion areas

Further economic development in Shanghai will see an expansion of development in the Yangtze Delta, with both traditional and high-tech production industries in Shanghai going to Suzhou, Wuxi and Kunshan; while Nanjing, Changzhou

and Zhenjiang mainly develop mechanical and electronic industries. Hangzhou, Huzhou, Jiaxing and Ningbo will also establish some traditional industries transferred from Shanghai.

Production and sales in Shenzhen systemized

Since most investors attracted to Shenzhen nowadays establish their factories in some small towns, such

as Dongwan and Huizhou, these areas have become new bases for information technology and production both in China and overseas.

Now, factories in Dongwan and Huizhou conduct the processing, manufacturing and assembling, while Shenzhen acts as a store, processing overseas orders, supplying materials, promoting markets and developing research.

Breakdown of economic indices, city by city.

Index			Beijing		Shanghai		Shenzhen	
			Ranking	* Points	Ranking	* Points	Ranking	* Points
A	A1	Number of people with bank accounts	2	2	3	1	1	3
B	A2	Number of listed companies	3	1	2	2	1	3
	B1	Number of specialists and technicians	1	3	2	2	3	1
	B2	Number of non-local residents	3	1	2	2	1	3
	B3	Average salary	2	2	3	1	1	3
	B4	Visitors per day	2	2	3	1	1	3
C	B5	People investing in stock market	3	1	2	2	1	3
	C1	Investment in science and technology	2	2	3	1	1	3
	C2	Number of patents	2	2	3	1	1	3
	C3	Number of science and research institutes	1	3	2	2	3	1
D	C4	Number of multinational companies and R&D institutes	1	3	2	2	3	1
	D1	Number of lawyers	1	3	2	2	3	1
	D2	Number of CPAs	1	3	3	1	2	2
	D3	Number of information consulting services	1	3	2	2	3	1
	D4	Number of financial organization	1	3	2	2	3	1
	D5	Turnover of tech-related trade	1	3	2	2	3	1
E	D6	Innovative industry funds	1	3	2	2	3	1
	E1	Number of incubators	1	3	2	2	3	1
F	E2	Number of innovative enterprises	1	3	3	1	2	2
	F1	Number of people employed overseas	3	1	1	3	2	2
	F2	Foreign investment	2	2	3	1	1	3
	F3	International tourists	2	2	3	1	1	3
G	F4	Import volume	2	2	3	1	1	3
	G1	Number of internet users	1	3	2	2	3	1
	G2	Registered domain names	1	3	2	2	3	1
H	G3	Number of mobile phone users	3	1	2	2	1	3
	H1	Percentage of GDP used on research and comprehensive technological services	1	3	2	2	3	1
	H2	Percentage of industrial production taken by high-tech	2	2	3	1	1	3
	H3	Percentage of industrial production taken by non-governmental industrial production	3	1	2	2	1	3
	H4	Income as a percentage of GDP	1	3	3	1	2	2
Total				69		49		62

*A city gets 3 points for a ranking of 1, 2 points for ranking of 2 and 1 points for a ranking of 3.

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The Camels are Dying!



Environmental Degradation in Alashan is threatening an ancient way of life

By Li Yanchun / Jane Yang / Anna Chai

Camels dead and dying of starvation, goats dressed in clothing to prevent them from eating each others wool, wells filled with sand, ravenous wolves... These are just some of the photos taken by Lu Tongjing, a voluntary environmentalist who sold his possessions in order to fund his bringing more than 20,000 photos to Beijing, looking for support for his photo exhibition.

Walking in Alashan, a remote area in the western-most corner of Inner Mongolia, you can see camels' corpses and bones every half kilometer or so. The frequent sandstorms soon bleach the bones white. One newborn camel couldn't even stand. When asked the reason, a herdsman said, "How can it survive when its mother is starving?"

Man-made catastrophe

Have you ever seen a flock of colorfully dressed goats? On the bare grasslands of Alashan, the goats are dressed in colored clothes. The reason is that they have nothing to eat. There was not a drop of rain last year, and there is no grass left. With no food, the starving goats begin to eat each other's wool, the herdsman's treasure.

And it is the goats themselves that are the main cause of this environmental disaster. In 1982, a Japanese company invested in a project to raise goats for cashmere production in Alashan. Since then, the number of goats has multiplied rapidly. However, according to the director general of the Inner Mongolia Environmental Protection Bureau, goats have never before been bred in Inner Mongolia, and they have upset the ecological balance of the region. Unlike sheep, goats eat not only the grass, but also the roots of the grass, destroying the natural pastures.

According to scientific research, 80,400 square kilometers of grassland should support no more than 200,000 head of livestock, whereas the present number is 1,600,000, 80% of which are goats. Overgrazing puts tremendous pressure on the grassland, and the camels, the natural inhabitants, are the first to suffer the effects.

The sign of a camels' impending death is their hair and skin begins to fall off. Lu's camera has recorded many such tragic stories. Some lose their skin in great



A sign of starvation: camels lose their hair and skin



Dead camels are a common sight



Frequent sandstorms quickly bleach the bones

Photos by Lu Tongjing

patches, some cannot stand up or carry water, and some are stricken to blind by sandstorms. Another symptom of ecological deterioration is the proliferation of a kind of weed called "poisonous grass" by the herdsman over the shrinking grassland. The camels' stomachs swell up grotesquely when they eat the poisonous grass, and many more of the already weakened animals die as a result.

In the Tenggeli Desert, a

herdsman told Lu that another result of the ecological deterioration is that packs of wolves have become bolder in their search for food. His four camels were victims of one such attack.

Alashan was once known as "the home of camels", boasting a population of some 250,000. Camels mostly eat Malian grass, but now the grass has all gone.

Lu estimated that last year there were only 90,000 camels, and this year the number may

fall to just 40,000 or 50,000. "Unless drastic measures are taken quickly, within three to five years, there may be none left," Lu says. "Chinese culture on the Silk Road is co-written by human and camels, but now, humans are killing the camels for short-term interest."

An environmental and human disaster

The teeth of the residents of Alashan are yellow, a sign of an excess of fluorine in the water. In one village, there has been no rain for over eight years and nine wells have dried up. Where once there were more than 200 households, by June 2001, only four households were left. The environment is deteriorating year by year. Beneath the feet is a very thin layer of soil. When you step on the ground, the sand emerges. The area is suffering rapid desertification.

Following the deterioration of the environment, the standard of living of the herdsman is also falling. In Alashan, no family can even afford a watermelon, at 16 cents for one kilogram. Lu saw kids dressed in the same clothes they were wearing when he visited three years ago. He asked in surprise, "How is it that the kids haven't grown?" Parents replied, "They don't have enough nutrition." Herdsmen in Alashan only eat two meals a day, and it is never enough to satisfy their hunger.

How much will you pay?

There are 2,600 cashmere factories in China; the export price of one famous brand cashmere sweater is over 1,000 dollars.

In 2000 the price of cashmere was 360 yuan per kilogram, in 2001 it was 300 yuan, with the highest recorded price of 540 yuan. With local governments eager for quick profits and instant benefits, enterprises seeking big money, and herdsman desperate to support their families, the limited grassland resources have almost been destroyed by human's lust.

In 2001, the goal of one famous cashmere factory was to become the biggest cashmere factory in the world.

Lu shook a handful of photos emotionally, asking "how much of our irreplaceable natural resources to these enterprises need to sacrifice for economic interest? And how much are they willing to pay to undo the damage they have done?"

Juvenile Delinquency

A 14-year-old girl faces sentencing for robbery

By Ivy Zhang

Ningning is a problem youth. Charged with ten counts of robbery, totaling over 900 yuan, her case was heard last week at the Juvenile Criminal Court of the Dongcheng District People's Court of Beijing.

Though a verdict has not yet been reached, Ningning is likely to receive a three to ten year term in a detention center for juveniles or a period of probation, according to Gao Yanhong, a judge of the court.

Who is Ningning?

"Ningning is 1.4 meters high and has delicate features, with small eyes and a small nose," Gao says. "She looks so cute and fragile. The sight of her will make you have pity on her."

"It is hard to imagine how such a little girl could have committed dozens of robberies. She cried when her parents visited her in detention, but she looks very indifferent," she added.

Born in 1987, Ningning's family life has been far from harmonious. Her father is a construction worker and her mother an employee at a hotel. Ningning lived with her parents, grandfather and a divorced uncle. With five people crowded into a two-bedroom apartment, household disputes occurred frequently.

When Ningning was three years old, her father went abroad. Three years later, he returned, but the relationship between him and Ningning's mother worsened and the couple divorced in 2000.

Feeling no warmth at home and witnessing frequent quarrels, Ningning told the court she often felt scared and reluctant to go home. She took to wandering around the city, spending evenings at bars, hair salons, or public baths.

At the age of 13, Ningning met a boy who coaxed her to have an affair with him. "When I made love for the first time, I had no idea what was going on," Ningning told the judge. Soon after, the boy disappeared, leaving her feeling frustrated and full of despair.

After that, Ningning dropped out of school and went through a succession of boyfriends, so many that she herself has lost count. Just before her arrest for robbery, the young girl had an abortion.

In 2000, Ningning, together with a group of boys, started robbing kids "to get money to make a living" as she puts it, becoming a notorious "little devil" in her neighborhood. In her confession Ningning admitted that she robbed kids nearly everyday, sometimes three or four times a day.

According to Chinese law, those over the age of 14 can be held accountable for crimes they are accused of in court. Ningning, who turned 14 in 2001, was tried for offences she had committed since then.

What is the Juvenile Criminal Court?

The first Juvenile Court in China opened in Shanghai in 1987. Six years later, the Juvenile Criminal Court was launched at the Dongcheng People's Court of Beijing.

There are now four juvenile courts in Beijing, in Dongcheng, Xuanwu, Mentougou and Fengtai districts.

The Juvenile Criminal Court is independent of other courts, and is designed to try cases involving defendants aged between 14 and 18 years old. Trials dealing with infringement of juveniles' rights are also heard in this court.

Unlike other courts, the juvenile court places an emphasis on education, rather than punishment, in an effort to prevent youth from committing crimes.

About 80 cases were tried at the Dongcheng Juvenile Court



Established in January 1993, the Dongcheng Juvenile Court in Beijing stresses the importance of education

Photo by Qu Lian

last year. Though there is a lack of specific criminal laws targeting juveniles, the court tries to minimize punishments imposed on young offenders, by cutting jail terms, putting offenders on probation or imposing fines.

Shao Jinchang, Chief Judge of the Dongcheng Juvenile Court highlights four key aspects of the juvenile court:

- Hearings are not open to the public

- In addition to lawyers designated by the court, parents can also defend their children. Defendants enjoy all rights entitled to an adult.

- Education is highlighted during the court hearing

- Follow up education and assistance is provided to those on probation

It usually takes one month to one and a half months to hear a case. During the hearings, most defendants express remorse for their wrongdoings.

Once a convicted youth has completed his or her period of probation or other punishment imposed by the court, they are free to lead a normal life. Some go on to college, and only 1% commits further crimes, according to Shao.

What causes juvenile delinquency?

During Ningning's trial, her father said to the judge, "So many couples break up, why is it that my girl became a criminal?"

"The family relationship has a great impact on the child," Judge Gao says. "Often children are terribly spoiled and headstrong before a family breaks up. After the parents divorce, the child is unable to accept the fact emotionally."

Looking at the psychological side of youngsters in troubled times, Professor Zhou Zhenxiang, deputy managing president of China Juvenile Delinquency Association says these kids are in a transitional period from childhood to adulthood. They tend to handle things in an irrational way, without thinking of the consequences.

Chief Justice Shao, who has been working at the Dongcheng Juvenile Court for more than seven years, says that family, school and society are all responsible for juvenile delinquency.

Schools should increase students' awareness of the law, letting them know theft of even one yuan is a crime. Also, the school, along with the community and local police should keep track of students who drop out and watch for their illegal conduct, Shao says.

Personnel mobility is also a contributing factor in juvenile delinquency. Two thirds of the defendants at the Dongcheng Juvenile Court are from out of town. Migrant workers usually have an enormous burden in making enough to support themselves and their family, and they are often unable to keep a close watch over their children, Shao added.



Breathing Stories Of an Ancient Capital

By Zhao Pu

At the beginning of the last century, French financier Albert Kahn stopped in China on his round-the-world tour and took over 2,000 pictures of this ancient and mysterious land, including a one-hour movie. Two-fifths of these precious old photos were shot in Beijing, at a time of transition from the eclipse of the last dynasty to the Republic of China (ROC) (Minguo period 1912-1949).

81 photos returned "home" at the end of 2001, and have been exhibited at Old Beijing Street (老北京一条街) in Sun Dong An Plaza since Christmas day. The city gates, bazaars, teashops, Siheyuans and men wearing long pigtailed in the gray pictures, where and who were they? It's hard to say since so little of the city remains as it was a century ago.

But there is one person who can decode every one of those old photos in detail, right down to the exact location, the identities of the people and the scene taking place—Li Tiehu, a senior researcher on ROC history from the Capital Museum. He's known as the 'Minguo Archive', or as an encyclopedia of ROC history. He hides a map of the old city of Beijing in his mind. Whatever he encounters, people or places, are all history and cultures in his eyes. And finding out his story and that of his family is even more interesting.

The city and its people

Talking with 64-year-old Li is great fun. Before delving into his memories, he'll interrogate you down to your family's most distant history. "Are you a Beijing native? And your parents? How about your grandma? Does your family keep a record of descendants? What did your grandpa do when he was young? How many people worked in your grandpa's little jewelry workshop at that time...?"

He won't start talking about himself until all these 'historical vacancies' are filled. Then, contentedly, he leisurely begins his prolog, "You want to know about me and my family? I'll have to start with something about old Beijing and Beijingers."

The warm smile on his face suggests that this is his favorite topic, the city and its people. I learned from his slow and enlightening flow of words that he loves and is proud of the city and its people as his roots. His family story is an epitome of the city's past.

"Beijing is a great place. Without mentioning the 3,000 years history and the glory of be-



ing the capital for the last four dynasties, the city has a particular noble and graceful air, which is not found in other places in the country. Beijing is a galaxy of talents." He described the city with the name of the Oscar winning film *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*.

Being the capital of the last four dynasties over the recent 700 years, Beijing attracted talents from all over China providing abundant opportunities and a prosperous future. Scholars, merchants and officials from other places brought their families and settled down in Beijing, while workmen coming to look for jobs couldn't afford to move here with their families. The pull of the capital testifies to its role as a talent-gathering center for the country.

A laid-off worker receiving alms from the government at present could be the descendant of a high official or the richest merchant 200 years ago, or bear the royal Manchu surname from the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). Quite frequently this is often the case.

Descendant of a Ming General

Li's own family is a case in point. There was a renowned general named Li Chengliang in his family tree some 500 years ago in the Ming Dynasty.

"I still remember the first two sentences of my family's ancestry—'李氏原籍朝鲜人，明初渡江到辽东'" said Li. The characters mean that Li's family were originally Korean, and moved to the east of Liaoning Province in the early Ming Dynasty (1368-1644).

His ancestors moved to Tieling in northeast China's Liaoning Province some 600 hundred years ago. Li Chengliang, the fifth generation of his family in China was titled Ningyuan Earl in Emperor Zhudi's reign, guarding the east Liaoning Province. He moved to Beijing in the 15th century with his family.



"I'm the descendant of his third son," said Li Tiehu. Though there was no record of other high status in the family's ancestry, following generations of Li's family were all intellectuals at least. The family once occupied a graveyard in the outskirts north of Beijing.

Li's family enjoyed the title and status of Manchu in the Qing Dynasty, and so women in the family were not subjected to foot binding. "My family declined at the end of Qing Dynasty. My grandpa was an elementary school teacher." Li's father had no job and life was hard at the end of Republican period.

Li was born in 1938, as the third child in his family. Though life was tough, his parents insisted on sending him to school. "That was the unbreakable tradition of my family, every boy went to school. My mom sold our only two big wooden trunks for my school fees and forced me to school." He remembered that he seldom ate lunch at school because he could hardly afford to buy any food, "but I was the best student in the class, and was talented in history and foreign languages."

Li followed the system all the way through to university and became a history major in Tianjin Normal College (now Hebei University) in 1957. That was a turbulent period in China,



and his four years in college were mostly consumed in various movements. "I grabbed every possible minute to study, and thankfully I didn't waste my youth in college."

After graduation, Li worked as a history teacher in high school for 19 years and then a historical researcher at the Academy of Social Sciences of Hebei Province for 5 years. Li was one of those who hide a dark corner in their memory about the Cultural Revolution. "My elder brother joined the Kuomintang and escaped to Taiwan in 1949, and thus I suffered a lot as one of his relatives, a reactionary." He flinched from further talk of that period, shrinking from the pain left in his mind.

My career is my pleasure and my faith

In 1985, Li returned to his hometown at the age of 47. "I was looking forward to returning to Beijing, the place I spent my childhood." He joined the Capital Museum as a researcher of ROC history. "There are two reasons for me to choose the ROC period as my specialty. One is that I was born at the end of that special period; and the second is that most historians research ancient history, very few focus on the period of history staged just 90 years ago," revealed Li.

In his past 17 years' research in the museum, he has published numerous treatises totaling 300,000 characters in many journals and magazines. He's a

famous appraiser of old photos and objects of the ROC period in Beijing. Many exhibitions like the French one staged in Sun Dong An Plaza are now appraised by him.

"Working in a museum, being a historian is not enough, one needs to know about everything—culture, literature, food, architecture, religion, clothing, currencies..." Li has a strong interest in collecting: he started collecting stamps from the age of five years old and began to collect coins and maps years ago. Li's research is not limited to history, he studies religion, architecture and clothing of different places and nationalities. Li walks a lot in his leisure time, strolling the streets of Beijing and searching for traces of history. Ordinary and routine things in others' eyes turn out to be history and culture in his mind.

Li has another particular hobby in the form of correcting mistakes for others. "I can't stand the mistakes related to the ROC history in books or magazines. Whenever I find a mistake, I write to both the publisher and the writer to correct their mistake." Li has made many friends through his corrections, while offending many others at the same time.

Li is very optimistic, and lives an extremely simple life. He abstains from smoking and alcohol, and eats as a vegetarian. He has no expensive clothes, and lives in two small rooms with his wife and son. "My career is my pleasure and also my faith," Li smiled. His only worry is the lack of time and energy to go deeper into his research.

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① Li explains old photos to visitors

② This is a Ming tablet in the Confucius Temple

③ Li delivers a speech on the old photo exhibition in Sun Dong An

④ The cat Pipi is the only pet in Li's family

⑤ Li in 1943, five years old

Photos by Michael Reynolds

It's no exaggeration: in any kindergarten in Beijing, ask any five-year-old, and the kid may tell you that he can recite *Thoughts on a Silent Night* (《静夜思》):

*Before my bed a pool of light—
Can it be frost upon the ground?
Eyes raised, I see the moon so bright;
Head bent, in homesickness I'm drowned.*

And "Who wrote this poem?"

"Li Bai," answers the child's sweet voice.

Li Bai, one of the greatest poets in Chinese literature, began his legendary life with a legend. This was recorded in the history of Chinese literature: Li Bai's mother dreamt of the star Venus, then gave birth to a child, so she named her son after the name of the star, in Chinese "Taibai". Li Bai's mother certainly could not foresee a very interesting coincidence, that her son shares the same name with the goddess of love and beauty in Roman mythology, the goddess of romance. Li Bai happens to be a beloved representative of romantic poets.

Now we have a star in the sky above named after Li Bai. So on a winter's night as temperatures plunge below zero, gazing up at the clear sky, one might feel warm in the heart for there is a star twinkling with the name of Li Bai.

We may feel gratified to the mass media, for the first time, for its power of penetrating people's lives. Throughout the month of February, we could hear a name being repeated over and over again, a name that we grow up with, a name to long for, to be in love with or to be jealous of, a poetic genius, a poet immortal, Li Bai.

A man of inspiration becomes the inspiration of the modern artists.

So we have well-known composer Guo Wenjing and his work, which is going to be performed on February 7, using the title of a Li Bai classic: *Hard is the Road to Shu* (Shu, present-day Sichuan Province). "I admit that Li Bai's long poem arouses my profound sympathy," said Guo. He thinks that Li's piece manifested a sense of great momentum, richness, and solemnity, so it is with his symphonic chorus.

We have composer Zhou Long, who illustrates the artistic conception of four Tang Dynasty poems, including one of Li Bai's with his notes.

We have the modern dancers from the Guangdong Modern Dance Troupe to describe an unrestrained poet with their modern language.

We have Rigma Christina Johnson from the Norwegian Embassy, who has been living in China for over 20 years, and who is going to recite *Thoughts on a Silent Night* in her mother tongue. Ms. Johnson said that she was fond of Li Bai, and that her son's name Yunfan (云帆) was picked from Li Bai's poem, while many Norwegian poets have been influenced by him.

What words could we use to describe the poet? Who, in his short 61 years, made his being into a poem for later generations to recite over and over again?

Every Chinese who loves the language loves Li Bai. The best way to commemorate him is to read his poems.

People say you never die if you live in people's hearts.

Tao Yuanming (365-427), another great name in Chinese literature, wrote a poem titled *Ode to Jin Ke*, for the hero in the Warring States Period (475-221BC) remembered by later generations for assassinating Ying Zheng, the first Emperor of the Qin Dynasty (221-207BC) with a dagger, though he failed. The last two five-character verses 其人虽已没,千载有余情 can be roughly translated as: although Jin Ke died, his spirit inspires for thousands of years.

We dedicate these two lines to Li Bai.

By Miao Yajie

Starting from February 4, next Monday, a series of performances and an exhibition will be presented to commemorate the 1,300th anniversary of the birth of Li Bai (701-762), the greatest romantic poet of the Tang Dynasty (618-907). This is the first time for the capital to hold such a large-scale public celebration of the poet with participation from the mass media rather than a small academic circle.

The Undying Poet

—Dedicated to the Great High Tang Poet Li Bai

Biography

Li Bai (701-762), styled Taibai (太白), or Qinglian Jushi (青莲居士) (Blue Lotus Recluse), is considered as the greatest romantic poet of the Tang dynasty (618 -907).

Born as a son of a rich merchant Li Bai moved to Sichuan with his father when he was about five years old. He was influenced by both Confucianism and Taoism as a child.

At about the age of 25, Li Bai left Sichuan to find some Taoist recluses, make some new friends and visit some places. In the year 727, he arrived at Anlu (安陆) in Hubei province, where he married. He then settled down in this little village for nearly ten years, living a quiet life.

When he was about 42, Li Bai was assigned a post in the government in the capital Chang'an (present-day Xi'an), proving a source of scholarly expertise for the emperor. Two years later in 745, Li Bai was slandered and exiled from Chang'an. Some said that Lady Yang (the emperor's favorite concubine) was offended by poems he had written for her.

Li Bai subsequently continued aimlessly wandering all over the country. At the age of 57, he was exiled again because of involvement in an abortive rebellion. This difficult time proved also to be his most productive period. Concerns for the fate of the country, dissatisfaction with the government, yearning for family and friends and longing for an imaginary land of freedom inspired him to write a massive opus of poetry.

Freed by an amnesty on the road of exile, Li Bai started traveling again. In the year 762, the frustrated poet died from disease at Dangtu (当涂) in Anhui province, aged 62.

By Shi Xinyu



Collected by the Palace Museum, Taipei

Main Commemorative Activities

Exhibition of Collections from Sichuan Li Bai Museum

Opening Dates: February 4 - February 20, 2002

Exhibition Location: Museum of the China Millennium Monument (中华世纪坛艺廊)

Time: 8:30am - 5:30pm, seven days a week

Entry Fee: 30 yuan

Dreaming of Li Bai (梦白)

— A modern dance show

performed by Guangdong

Modern Dance Company

Performance Dates: February 5

— February 6, 2002

Venue: Tian Qiao Theater (天桥剧场)

Time: 7:30pm

Ticket Price: 80 ~ 600 yuan

Bright Moon Raising from Tian Mountain (明月出天山)

— A symphony concert

performed by Beijing Symphony



Photo provided by Yang Nan

Orchestra

Performance Date: February 7,

2002.

Venue: Tian Qiao Theater (天桥剧场)

Time: 7:30pm

Ticket Price: 60 ~ 380 yuan

Li Bai Poetry Recital

Performance Dates: February 9 -

February 10, 2002.

Venue: Tian Qiao Theater (天桥剧场)

Time: 7:30pm

Ticket Price: 60 ~ 500 yuan

Ticket Hotline: 6406 8888

6406 9999

Yearning

I yearn for one

Who's in Chang'an.

In autumn crickets will be-

side the golden rail;

The first frost, although

light, invades the bed's delight.

My lonely lamp burns dull, of

longing I would die;

Rolling up screens to view

the moon, in vain I sigh.

My flowerlike beauty's high

As the cloud in the sky.

Above, the boundless heav-

en blue is seen;

Below, the endless river rolls

its billows green.

My soul can't fly o'er sky so

vast or earth so wide;

In dreams I can't go through

mountain pass to her side.

We are so far apart,

The yearning breaks my

heart.

(《长相思》, translated by Xu Yuan-

zhong)

INTERVIEW

The earliest western record of Li Bai found so far was by a French Sinologist J.J.M. Aniot, whose book containing an introduction to Tang Dynasty poets including Li Bai and Du Fu was published in 1779 and 1780. With regard to the research and critical writings on Li Bai and translation of his works outside China, *Beijing Today* interviewed professor Zhou Faxing, from the Institute of Literature, Chinese Academy of Social Science.

Q: *Is Li Bai the favorite of Sinologists? Do they introduce his works most?*

A: No, not really. But he is definitely among those being most researched and translated. Many of Wang Wei's (701-761) landscape poems have been translated. One reason, I think, is his poems are filled with boundless imagination and allusions, for example, *Hard is the Road to Shu*.

However, since the 18th century, translations and introductions of Li's poems have been published in English, French, German, Spanish, Portuguese, Swedish, Russian, Romanian, Albanian, Czech, and more. Li ranks top in the amount of languages to be translated into.

Q: *How do they (foreign scholars) research Li Bai? Do they have their own characteristics?*

A: Strictly speaking, the research can be divided into two groups. One is the Japanese and Korean group; the other is that in western countries. Japan and Korea follow almost the same research method with China. For these two countries, they both experienced a period when they didn't have their own written language, and they treat the original poems in Chinese as their classic literature. So in Japan, there are fewer translation versions of Li Bai's works than research and critical writings, on the other hand, western countries have their own research theories, and the amount of translations are relatively large.

Q: *What achievements have foreign scholars made?*

A: Due to different concepts of appreciation and text, foreign Sinologists sometimes raise new topics, or new angles. For example, a bunch of Li Bai's letters written to seek for official position have been compiled. In my view, their research to some extent could compare with our research, and the two are mutually complementary.

Q: *Are there any famous foreign researchers or books on Li Bai?*

A: The first History of Chinese Literature in Chinese was published by Lin Chuanjia in 1908, however, the first History of Chinese Literature in English by H.A. Giles was published seven years earlier. And the Russian introduction of Li Bai was even earlier than that of Giles', it was published by V. P. Vasil'ev in 1880, but because of the language, H.A. Giles' book was more popular. Besides A. Waley and S. Owen were both quite influential.

In Japan, scholars like Aoki Masaru, Takebe Toshio, Matsuura Tomohisa have satisfying achievements.

What's more, famous American modern poet Ezra Pound translated 12 of Li Bai's poems in one of his collections in 1915. His reputation greatly helped the popularization of Li Bai.

Interviewed by Miao Yajie

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99.9

Degrees And Rising

Excerpt from the book:

My name is Fenfang. Just one month ago, I was working as an extra. In movies, that is.

Somewhere deep in the archives of the Beijing Film Studio, which houses the files of over thirteen thousand movie extras and bit-players, you can find a file with my name on it. The file contains the following pertinent information:

Name: Wang Fenfang

Sex: Female

Year of Birth: 1974

Height: 1.68 meters

Bust: 80 centimeters

Waist: 75 centimeters

Hip: 90 centimeters

Blood type: B

Zodiac sign: Scorpio

Personality: Split. At times, vivacious and outgoing. At others, strangely introverted and antisocial.

Key roles: Young female servant (during the Chinese Republican period 1); maidservant in a wealthy household; waitress; bar hostess; head concierge in a hotel lobby; female Red Guard number one; female spy number two; female on-looker number three; "girl in crowd" number four; others.

Special skills and training: Certificates of proficiency in Dance and Acrobatics; Swordplay; Horsemanship; Qigong; Computers.

Hobbies and special interests: Movies. Movies. Oh, and movies.

That's right. I adore movies, any kind of movie - the good and the bad, tear-jerkers and comedies, Chinese films and foreign films, the easily understood and the frustratingly abstruse. In a word, I love everything about movies. I love watching movies, acting in movies, and talking about movies.

That's why I've taken every little part I could get my hands on. And I do mean every little part. I've had parts where I've walked into a room, placed a glass of water on a table, and then exited the room without speaking a line; I've played one half of a devastatingly cool couple who cross the street in front of a devastatingly cool motorcycle, then disappear from the scene without a word; I've played a female Red Army soldier who falls to the ground - again, in silence - as the report from a gunshot rings out over her head; I've played the leader of a female dance troupe (who moonlights nights as a member of a bosozoku motorcycle gang) shooting up the interior of a discotheque with laser guns, as the bones of the fallen patrons scatter to the dance floor...I've played the seductress, tossing my long

mane of luxuriant hair and turning to the camera for one last dazzling smile before I walk off toward the horizon...I've played an ill-fated street vendor, too terrified to voice a word of protest when her stall is overturned by a band of thugs running from the law...

The common thread to all of these roles is that I never speak a line in any of them. Not a word. Of course, there are some roles that I simply refuse to take. For example, I never do anything involving nudity. Why, you ask? That's simple: because I'm a nice girl, a nice traditional Chinese girl. Ah yes, but I've already covered that, haven't I?

But now I've decided that I'm not going to be an extra anymore. I've changed professions. I'm going to write movies. Wait a minute, what's so funny about that? It's not as if I'm trying to prove anything, you know. This isn't about proving that I have talent, or that I'm literate, or that I can write. It's just that in all of the roles I've played, I've never said anything. Not a line, not a word, not a peep, and I'm dead sick of it. My voice has been muffled too long. On the set, it's always "nod-your-head-this", or "shake-your-head-that",

and when the time comes to film a scene, all I have to do is gesture, or blink, or toss my hair and keep my mouth shut.

Not surprisingly, I'm sick and tired of this life of silence. That's why I've decided to write movies. If I can just take everything that I want to say and write it into a script, that will be enough for me. I don't really give a damn about whether any of my scripts actually get made into movies. And although I don't know very much about the actual mechanics of writing a movie script, I'm sure I could do better than most of those half-assed, slapped-together efforts you see these days. All I have to do is write about myself, right?

And I've got loads of really great stories, believe you me. If you don't, just take a look at this:

I come from the tiniest little village imaginable. Even when I was quite young, I was already scheming ways to escape from it, to get away from my hometown once and for all.

Although I was seventeen before I actually left my hometown - a Chinese mountain hamlet so tiny you couldn't find it on any map - I remember clearly the first time I tried to run away from home. I was five. The approximate reason for my running away was the river that ran behind our house. The waters of the river were profoundly shallow, flowing tirelessly through our village day after day, year after year, ageless, timeless. Every afternoon, after I finished eating my mother's roasted sweet potatoes, I would gaze out toward the banks of the river. As for the river itself, it appeared cool and collected, almost sublimely unconcerned with the hills and valleys, villages and hamlets through which it flowed. I had no idea where the river was going or from whence it came, since both the source of the river and its destination were invisible to me.

At that time, I was five years old and didn't know very much about the world. I had never read a book, and could barely write Chinese characters, but my head was full of questions all the same. For a five year old, it was hard to fathom where all of that water had come from. Where on earth did the river get its water? Where was the source? And if the summers here were so long and hot, why didn't the water just dry up and disappear?

Now, at five, the longest distance I had traversed was the distance between our backyard and my mother's sweet potato patch. The river seemed so long in comparison; I couldn't understand how anything could possibly be so long. I imagined that the river must flow from a cave no human had ever visited, a cave high up in the mountains, and very probably inhabited by faeries. After it passed our village, I decided, the river continued on its course until it flowed into another world, located on the farthest reaches of the horizon. It was in this otherworld that the waters stopped. And although I was sure that this faraway world must have people living in it, I was equally sure it was no world my parents had ever been to. My five-year-old brain was confounded by these mysteries, and I continued to puzzle over them for the better part of a year.

Finally one day, I loaded my small knapsack with a porcelain bowl and some roasted sweet potatoes that I had pilfered from the house, and ventured out without telling my parents.

... ..

Translated by Sydney Carter

About Guo Xiaolu
- the Author

Twenty-eight year old Guo Xiaolu has risen rapidly to become one of the most important and sought-after young screenwriters in new Chinese cinema. Her first novel, *Fenfang's Fever*, is a marvelously detailed and thoughtful exploration of contemporary urban female consciousness in today's China. Her humorous and highly evocative style represents a break from the political constraints and recent memories of painful class struggle in China, and the movement toward a freer, more individualistic style in contemporary Chinese literature.

About Sydney Carter
- the Translator

Sydney Carter has lived in Asia for over a decade, and has worked as a freelance writer and translator in both China and Japan. She has translated films, documentaries, journalistic articles, short stories and poetry from Chinese into English and, when pressed, will reluctantly admit to a brief stint translating the *Sailor Moon* comic book series from Japanese into English.

About the Book:

99.9 Degrees And Rising is a novel, a fast-paced swirling narrative that explores the emotional life of Fenfang, a young woman adrift in Beijing. Fenfang is an actress specializing in bit parts - walk-ons, non-speaking roles, one-shots that as often as not end up on the cutting room floor. Fenfang becomes ensnared in a violent and fiercely sexual relationship with a young Chinese man named Mumu, but at the same time, finds herself falling in love with Mickey, an American man living in Beijing, who seems to offer her the ideal love she has been searching for. Fenfang is both fascinated and repelled by Beijing, by its crudeness, fevered pitch and brazen masculinity. She wanders through her life in Beijing as if consumed by fever, or immersed in a waking dream...

99.9 Degree And Raising

《芬芳的37° 2》

By Guo Xiaolu 郭小橐

Published by Shanxi People's Publishing House in September, 2000
Price RMB15.00



Illustration of the book



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Mikhail Pletnev

Photos provided by Zhao Xin

Musical Miracles Join Forces

By Zhu Lin

Two musical miracles will meet at the concert "Spring of Tai He" held at the Great Hall of the People on February 3 and 4. Li Yundi, first-prize winner of the last International Chopin Piano Competition in 2000 will perform alongside Mikhail Pletnev, 1978 winner of the Tchaikovsky International Piano Competition, and director of the Russian National Orchestra.

The two are going to play Chopin's first piano concerto in

E minor, an orchestral version arranged by Pletnev himself, in the first part of the two days of concerts. Pletnev is one of the very few classical musicians ranked as a world No.1 in piano playing, conducting and also orchestra management. He founded the Russian National Orchestra in 1990. No other orchestra has ever achieved the glory of ranking among the world's best with only 11 years of history.

Li Yundi's success at the International Chopin Piano Competition caused a real



Li Yundi

sensation around China as well as the world. On talking about his cooperation with Pletnev, he said, "It's a great honor and pleasure to collaborate with such a talented conductor and orchestra. I often listened to Pletnev's CD. I feel his playing is very fresh and charming!"

The concerto and Rossini's Gazza Ladra Overture will be played as the first part of the concerts for two days. The second section will feature Jean Sibelius' Symphony No. 2 on February 3, and Peter Tchaikovsky's Suite No.1 the following day.

Red Shoes Plant Obsession in The Heart

By Zhu Lin

Nothing less than "electric" can describe Red Shoes, the drama performed by Britain's Kneehigh Theater. The magic shoes kept the sparks flying on Beijing's stage for three days of performance, leaving behind them a full box record and reflections on the nature of obsession.

After Kneehigh's delirious performance from January 24 to 26, people's different understandings about the issue of obsession came out and found expression, both from the audience and performers. Bec Applebee, actress of The Girl said performing the role liberated her own desire. Under the radiant red shoes' charm, The Girl went crazy showing them off. At that moment on the stage, Applebee's expression and gestures transformed her body into that of a little girl lured by the obsession of the moonlight world outside her bedroom.

Emma Rice, the director, said she has always been attracted by the story, "It's so relevant to my life that I can talk for hours about it." Her idea was to let the story become flexible and personal to each member of the audience, and it really worked.

On seeing The Girl's feet being cut off by the butcher because she couldn't stop dancing, Han Song from the British Council sighed, "I wanted to cry during the show. Everyone has the desire to show in some way, but when your way of showing or what you show can't be valued by the outside, you have to bear cruel punishment like The Girl."

In the middle of the performance, Lady Lydia, the narrator asked, "Is there anyone who can forever keep away from obsession?" No answer. The eternal question sunk into the depths of everybody's heart, echoing with a sound so loud that could only be expressed in silence.

Everyone has a pair of red shoes under the bed. What's yours?



Photo by Li Yan

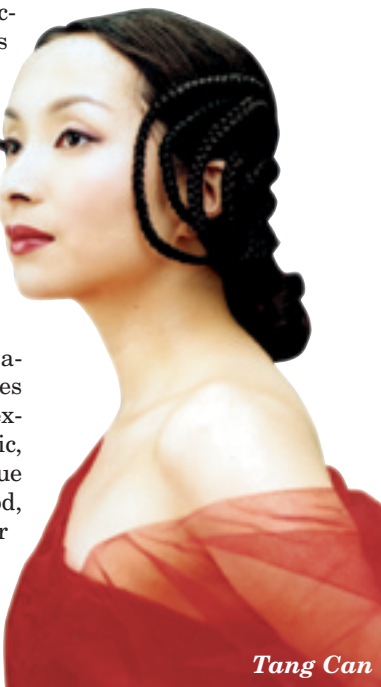
Folk Singer Extends Happiness Forever

By Zhu Lin

Tang Can, one of the most successful folk singers in China is presenting a combination of folk and popular music in her new CD Happiness Forever.

Tang Can is famous for her sweet voice and stunning looks. In 1999, she released the video *Best Wishes for the Motherland*, made by MTV for China's 50th birthday, and directed by Zhang Yimou. Her fame has radiated since then.

The songs in Happiness Forever feature typically southern Chinese tones under modern sound effects. On explaining the meaning of new folk music, Tang said, "What I especially pursue in these songs is an amiable mood, not technique. In a rhythm familiar to most people, the folk tones in my singing will sound as natural as speaking." The CD was released onto the Beijing market after the press conference this Monday.



Tang Can



Photo by Zhuang Jian

By Zhao Pu

"Digital" is one of the most frequently used words of our age. However the popular word has failed to stay true to its original meaning in an on-going oil painting exhibition in Beijing.

The exhibition, named Fourteen Artists' Pictures Show-Digital Times Oil Painting, has been held at the Firenze Restaurant & Bar at the south gate of the Ritan Park (Temple of Sun) from January 28, and will last until February 10. On display will be 30 oil paintings from 14 young Chinese artists.

Though the sponsor of the exhibition, Poloarts Cultural Transmission Corporation, wishes to present a new

Digital Makes No Sense for Canvas Art

concept of so-called "digital oil painting", neither the attending artists nor the viewers of the exhibition appreciated the seemingly fashionable idea.

"Although the art of painting has more or less felt the impact of digital technology and various media forms, it's nevertheless an absolute and unattached art which can hardly be digitalized," said He Jing, one of the 14 artists.

Even the dubious "digital impact" mentioned by the young artist has been poorly appreciated by the viewers. "I see hardly anything digital in these paintings, the name's a little absurd," commented Liu Li, a visitor at the bar. The avant-garde name has failed in achieving success for the exhibition.

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Get ready for Chinese New Year! Beijing offers numerous opportunities to enjoy a traditional Spring Festival.

Old Beijing Street

By Lydia

Apart from a Spring Festival temple fair, where might you go to experience the old Beijing customs, with a variety of goods or performances? One possibility is the Old Beijing Street at Xindong'an Market, in Wanfujing, an authentic recreation of an old style market.

At the entrance to this basement "street" stand sculptures of several Qing Dynasty officials of different ranks. Next is a miniature compound of emperor's chairs with ministers standing by. On hearing the hucksters tempting customers in old Beijing style with all their wares, you may feel you really cannot take it all in. There are about 40 old famous brand shops along the street, all of which were first set up in the 18th or 19th century, such as the shoe shop Neiliansheng (内联生), the hat shop Shengxifu (盛锡福), the silk and embroidery store Ruifuxiang (瑞蚨祥), the scissors shop Wangmazi (王麻子), the tea shop Yuanchanghou (元长厚), the pastry shop Daoxiangcun (稻香村), the Peking Duck restaurant Quanjude (全聚德), and soy sauce supplier Liubiju (六必居). Toys and playthings of old Beijing can also be found in abundance, such as painted clay figurines, pinwheels, rattle-drums and kites.

Walking along this street you will find some other vivid sculptures reflecting daily life in old Beijing, with both Chinese and English descriptions. An accountant in a bookkeeping office, a fortune-teller, a street performer practicing Kung Fu, an itinerate candy-maker, and in one corner, two young guys (they are real!) dressed in traditional costumes, using a traditional technique to make a kind of instant Jiaomian (Golden Flour), a popular delicacy of Old Beijing. The raw materials are sticky rice, black rice, Thai fragrant rice, purple rice, sesame and peanuts. The fragrant aroma attracts many visitors. Another surprise is that you can see the phoenix decorated sedan chair used by the empress when she married Emperor Guangxu of the Qing Dynasty!

Add: Xindong'an Market, B/1, Wangfujing Business Street, Dongcheng District. **Open:** 9am-9pm. **Tel:** 65276688.



Old Beijing clay figurine - Tu'er Ye (the divine figure worshipped at the time of the Moon Festival) Photo by Chen Shuyi

The Tang Clothes Street Opens

By Jiao Pei

When people talk about "Chinese fashion", they are usually referring to the styles popular during the Republic of China period early last century. Many top international brands, such as Christine Dior, have clearly shown such influences in their designs over the past ten years. This trend shows that traditional Chinese clothing has great potential in the world market. In China too, more and more people are buying traditional clothes, especially for the coming Spring Festival.

Last weekend saw the opening of Tang Clothes Street at Qianbaiqian Fashion Plaza at the Henderson Center, with over 100 shops specializing in traditional Chinese style clothing. Those traditional outfits that button down the front are known as Tang Clothes. Some modifications have been made to traditional designs, in deference to changing tastes. Such as mandarin gowns (Qipao), a close-fitting woman's dress with high neck and slit skirt, are often cut shorter than they once were. Also some fashionable factors are sometimes added, such as a thin gauze covering over a pure silk cloth, which highlights the flowing colors in the sunlight.

Tangyun Special Shop features over 100 kinds of Chinese clothing, and prices range from 100 to more than 2,000 yuan. Beijing Zhuangran Dress & Personal Adornment, specializing in more colorful Chinese style clothes, is situated at No. 024 of Area B1. Most of the clothes there are currently discounted by 55%. You can pick up a short mandarin gown for 200 yuan, and a cotton-padded jacket for around 300 yuan.

Add: B1, B2, Qianbaiqian (仟佰仟) Fashion Plaza, Henderson Center, East Chang'an Avenue, Dongcheng District. **Open:** 10am-9pm. **Tel:** 65188006.



Photos by Chen Shuyi

Snuff Bottles

By Lydia

When tobacco was introduced to China from Europe at the end of the 16th century, it was at first only smoked in pipes. After the establishment of the Qing dynasty in 1644, people began using it in its intended manner, because the new Qing rulers banned the smoking of tobacco. Taking snuff was not only acceptable; it was considered good for one's health. The powdered tobacco was kept in bottles, rather than the boxes that were used in Europe. By the end of the 17th century, snuff and snuff bottles were firmly entwined in the social rituals of the upper classes. These days, people in Tibet and Mongolia still keep the custom of using snuff bottles.

Snuff bottles are made from a wide variety of materials, including glass, porcelain, jade, ivory, coral, lacquer, amber, wood, crystal and agate. Among the most distinctive are the glass snuff bottles painted on the inside. Craftsmen use a bent-tipped bamboo brush to paint the inside of the bottles. It takes a very special skill, because the bottle is small with a narrow neck. The paintings are usually of flowers, birds, landscape, calligraphy and beautiful women.

It is said that Chinese snuff bottles first attracted the attention of westerners about 200 years ago, and they quickly became highly popular. At that time, with the open trade between China and the rest of the world, foreign officials, businessmen, scholars and missionaries collected snuff bottles in China, often exhibiting them when they returned to their homes.

Nowadays these exquisite bottles are popular the world over, and they are one of the best sellers at Panjiayuan market. People collect them, or buy them as gifts to take home with them. You can pick up boxed sets of four 'new' antique glass snuff bottles, the kind with the painting on the inside, for 20 to 40 yuan if you bargain hard. Genuine antiques are rather harder to find, you might start your search by contacting some of the store owners in the Antique Hall. Of course one of these will cost you several thousand yuan, or even more.

Add: Beijing Panjiayuan Flea Market, beside south part of East Third Ring Road, Chaoyang District.

Open: Area A, B, C, D 8am-5pm, Sat & Sun; Antique Hall, daily.

Panjiayuan

潘

Flea Market



Best Bites



Photo by Zhuang Jian

Shaanxi Noodles

By Lydia

It is well known that Northerners, especially Beijingers, are fond of cooked wheat food. Just as rice is the staple for Southerners, most Beijingers feel their dietary intake is incomplete if they go for a day without eating noodles, pancakes, steamed buns or dumplings. Since the beginning of the 1990s, many noodle restaurant chains have sprung up like mushrooms in the streets and lanes of Beijing, such as Lanzhou Lamian (hand-pulled noodle), Sichuan Dandanmian (spicy noodle) and Shanxi Daoxiaomian (peeled noodle).

However not so many people might be familiar with genuine Shaanxi style noodles. Yang Ling Noodle Restaurant, tucked away in a side-street near Xiaozhuang (小庄), is a restaurant that is always busy, especially at lunch and dinner times, when there is often a queue at the door. The restaurant is decorated in distinctive Shaanxi flavor, with bright red-painted windows, tables and backless benches.

Shaanxi noodles are almost as wide as leather belt. Rural people there lead hard lives, and they don't like spending too much time preparing food.

Thus the course leather-belt noodles are a symbol of local Shaanxi food. Peasants in Shaanxi also like to use huge blue and white porcelain bowls, which are always 25 centimeters in diameter. According to the owner, the bowls used in the restaurant are all brought from Shaanxi. He says some customers come for the noodles after only hearing about these bowls.

Apart from leather-belt noodles, the restaurant also offers Whistle Noodles (the name comes from the sound people make when eating them), Greasy Noodles, Stick-like Noodles, Hand-pulled Noodles, Fried Noodles and noodles served with soy sauce or sesame paste. There are altogether 20 kinds of noodles on the menu. The prices here are also an attraction; you can fill your stomach for no more than 10 yuan. The small cozy restaurant not only serves Shaanxi noodle, but also Shaanxi culture, with posters hanging on the wall introducing the top 10 strangest dishes and customs of the province, including the belt-like noodles, pancakes like the lid of a cooking pot, hot pepper as the main course, using bricks as pillows and squatting on a chair rather than sitting in it. If this has whetted your appetite for something a little different, why not head there for dinner tonight?

Add: Yang Ling Shaanxi Noodle Restaurant (杨凌陕西面馆), 19 Shuizhuizi Xili (水碓子西里), Chaoyang District. **Open:** 10:30am-11:30pm. **Tel:** 85988034.

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How to Sign an Additional Contract?

By Wang Dandan

It is a well-known fact that developers in Beijing are reluctant to sign additional contracts regarding the purchase of apartments.

However, here are some examples of some such contracts signed by developers, which might be of some help to prospective homebuyers.

Can you quit the house if you cannot get a bank loan?

According to a contract example approved by the Ministry of Construction, if the purchaser fails to obtain a bank loan, it is up to the developer to decide what to do. This can put purchasers at a disadvantage.

Here is an example of an additional contract that gives the purchaser the right to decide what to do should this situation arise.

The contract from Dongjing International Apartments says that if the purchaser is refused by the bank after he offers all the relevant documents and cannot get a loan, he can choose to quit the apartment.

But this should be within 30 days after the developer receives the written notice of failure to secure the loan from both the bank and the purchaser.

Dongjing will return the down payment without interest and with 0.5% stamp fee deducted.

Will the deposit be returned?

Most developers would verbally promise to return the deposit,



however, this is not written in the contract.

When asked why not print this on the contract, they would explain that the Ministry of Construction already regulates that the deposit should be returned and there is no need to print it on the contract.

But the Ministry of Construction also regulates that the deposit will not necessarily be returned if there is a problem between the purchaser and the developer.

A contract from the Beijing City Construction Group says

that if the purchaser does not agree with the contract or the apartment, he can quit the house and have the deposit returned within five days of signing the purchase agreement.

Specify the facilities and environment when the purchasers move in

Most disputes between developers and purchasers when delivering the apartments are to do with facilities and environment.

Will developers detail the standard of environment and relevant

facilities on the contract?

A contract from Autumn Spring says that the developer should offer the following facilities to purchasers in June 2003, when the project is complete: security system (including cameras on all entrances, fire prevention system, club, swimming pool, underground car park and a minimum of 30% grassland in the area.

Print the verbal promise on the additional contract

In order to sell the apartment, sales people make many promises, however when the purchaser moves into the building, these promises are often broken.

A contract from Spring's Vitality says that if the gas is not available at the time the purchaser moves in, the property management company would provide gas bottles to the purchaser.

Individual additional contracts

There are not many examples of this. Wanhao Guoji allows purchasers to draw up additional contracts themselves, to be later approved by the developer.

Even so, most developers are reluctant to sign additional contracts and some even ask for the deposit first, and then show the contract.

There are also cases where the developer has agreed to offer an additional contract, but it contains some irrational rules.

How Much Would You Pay to Rent An Office



By Wang Dandan

Following our report in the last two weeks on office locations and facilities, here is the final installment, cost. How much you should pay per square meter to rent your new office?

Rent at Beijing Ocean Plaza is about \$35 per month, including property management fees. An underground parking space costs \$100 per month and there is no charge extra for telephone lines. As for fitting out your office, you can negotiate with the office building to see if you have to return to the original situation.

Rent at Oriental Plaza is \$34, plus \$3.50 for property management fees per month. Other fees should be negotiated with the management.

Rent at China Resources Building is about \$30, plus \$3.80 for property management fees per month. A parking space costs \$100 per month and additional telephone lines cost \$30/line/month.

Rent at the Kerry Center is \$41.50 per month, including property management fees. One parking space costs \$110 per month and extra phone lines cost 1,240 yuan/line/month.

Rent at Sun Flower Tower is \$28, including property management fees. An underground parking space costs \$150 per month and there is a charge of 40 yuan/line/month for each telephone line.

Rent at Raycom Infotech Park Tower ranges from \$25 - \$30, with \$3 property management fee per month. Underground parking spaces cost 850 yuan, above ground parking spaces cost 400 yuan per month. There is also a charge of 45 yuan/line/month for each telephone line.

Redecoration fees (not including furniture): \$12,000 for 200 square meters including partitions, carpet and false ceiling.

This is for reference only and there might be a little difference when you negotiate with office buildings.

Apartment Prices

High-end Apartments

The St. Regis

Rental Range: \$3,200-10,500

Description: Brand new, fully furnished serviced apartments, range from 1 bed to 4 beds, with net sqm range from 58.13m2 to 189.01m2.

Location: Chaoyang District. 20 minutes drive to airport.

Facilities: Gym, sauna, indoor swimming pool, Spa. Pool, billiard, children's playground, restaurant, conference room, beauty salon, flower shop, golf training center.

Lido Courts Apartments

Rental Range: \$2,200 - 9,000

Description: Complex includes Holiday Inn Lido Hotel, serviced and non-serviced apartments (newly renovated) and offices. With 364 units in total, ranging from studio to 5 beds, around 68 to 356 gross sqm.

Location: Chaoyang District. Close to Airport Expressway.

Facilities: Country club, international schools, drugstore, starbucks, deli, post office and more.

Medium-end Apartments

East Gate Plaza Apartments

Rental Range: \$2,450 - 8,300

Description: European style interior with open kitchens. Extensive indoor shopping plaza. 332 units in total, 2 beds to 4 beds, 135 to 319 gross sqm.

Location: Dongcheng District. Close to 2nd Ring Road.

Facilities: Health club, sauna, swimming pool, supermarket, shopping center, bank, post office and more.

Landmark Towers Apartments

Rental Range: \$1,350 - 4,900

Description: Within the complex is a small shopping arcade. All are serviced apartments with hotel style accommodations. 248 units in total, 1-3 beds, 42-153 net sqm.

Location: Chaoyang District. Near Lufthansa Shopping Center.

Facilities: Health club, swimming pool, tennis court, restaurants, bank, supermarket, playground.

Low-end Apartments

Ju Long

Rental Range: \$1,000-5,000

Description: Villas and apartments available. 398 units, 1-4 beds, 105-347 sqm.

Location: Chaoyang District. Near Worker's Stadium and Swissotel.

Facilities: Sauna, health club, billiards, table tennis, restaurants, function room, conference, and more.

Warwick International Apartments

Rental Range: \$700 - 1,600

Description: Serviced apartment with large windows and open kitchen. Situated in a courtyard setting. Convenient outdoor parking. With 152 units, 34-78 net sqm, Studio to 2 beds.

Location: Chongwen District. Near 2nd Ring Road.

Facilities: Gym, coffee shop, and picnic area.

The above information is for reference only and provided by DTZ Debenham Tie Leung.

For further information, please go to www.dtz.com or www.dtz.bj.cn, or residential@dtz.bj.cn

Official's Hat Armchair

By Wang Dandan / Wang Yang

Have you noticed that modern furniture often employs classical Chinese style?

The purpose of this column is to tell the history of traditional furniture. You are also welcome to write to us with queries about any such furniture.

High backed armchairs made of a soft wood called Sichutou Guanmaoyi (official's hat armchair with four-protruding ends) were very popular



Official's Hat Armchair With Four-protruding Ends

Photo by Wang Dandan

during the Ming Dynasty.

Because the four ends of the chair protrude in a way similar to the shape of a court official's hat, such chairs are known as official's hat armchairs.

During the Ming and Qing Dynasties, educated people were held in very high regard, and their taste dominated the style of the whole society.

During the Ming Dynasty especially, great emphasis was placed on the development of an harmonious relationship with nature.

This style of chair, with its extended lines, was perceived to do just this, and so enjoyed great popularity.

At that time, they were usually made of pear tree wood and featured a yellow flower pattern.

In early versions of the chair, the back was usually made of one plank, however toward the end of the Ming Dynasty and in the early Qing Dynasty, several connected planks were more often used.

One of the great features of the chair is that its back is rationally designed to fit the curve of the back of the person sitting in it.

Special thanks to Guanfu Classic Art Museum.



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Ron Black, U.S.

I like the underground shopping mall here. It's my expectation to live here because the Grand Hyatt is world known. The relaxing areas in the hall provide Gigondas wine, which is my favorite and from France where I used to live.

Kumiko Sugaya, Japan

There are many Grand Hyatt hotels in Japan thus I choose to live here. It's very new, modern and comfortable.

Colin Bates, England

Before I came I knew it's a brand-new hotel with a central location in town. I can do lots of things and enjoy myself. Besides, I like the alarm clock in the room. It's only a very simple clock but I like being able to wake myself by it.

Anonymous, U.S.

I live here because it's close to where I work - Cisco. The service here is very good. I like the tropical-style swimming pool. It is so beautiful.

Who Is Responsible When a Project Is Transferred?

By Wang Dandan / Lei Deqin



James Young signed a contract with a developer to buy an apartment. The apartment cost nearly 800,000 yuan.

After he signed the contract, James paid 95% of the total price. The apartment should have been available to James on January 15, 2002.

But when he tried to move into the apartment, he found it had been sold to someone else three months earlier.

James then asked the developer to either return the payment or provide him with another apartment, but the developer refused.

During this period, the developer, which had met with financial problems, transferred all its debt and legal rights of operating the projects to another company. James then discussed with the second company, who put him off with all kinds of excuses.

James then went to court and sued both companies. However, during the investigation by the court, the first company was found to have breached the law and its property was seized by the Beijing Public Security Bureau.

Assistant judge of the Beijing Second People's Court, Yan Ming, explains that James could only sue the second company.

According to China's contract law, when a company transfers its projects to a second company, that company becomes responsible for all business matters related to the first company, including its debt.

The contract James signed with the first company is still valid between James and the second company. So it is that company's responsibility to either return the payment or provide James with another apartment.

Xu Chendi, lawyer with Zhongsheng Law Firm, suggests that it is a good idea to engage a lawyer when buying an apartment.

This can greatly facilitate the solving of any dispute, especially if there is any such changes on the developer's side.

"HOUSING" welcomes your feedback:
What kind of difficulties do you encounter when looking for housing in Beijing? What kind of information do you need? What can we help you with?
Our E-mail: housing@ynet.com
Tel: 65902522 Fax: 65902525

Exhibitions

Super Football Fans?

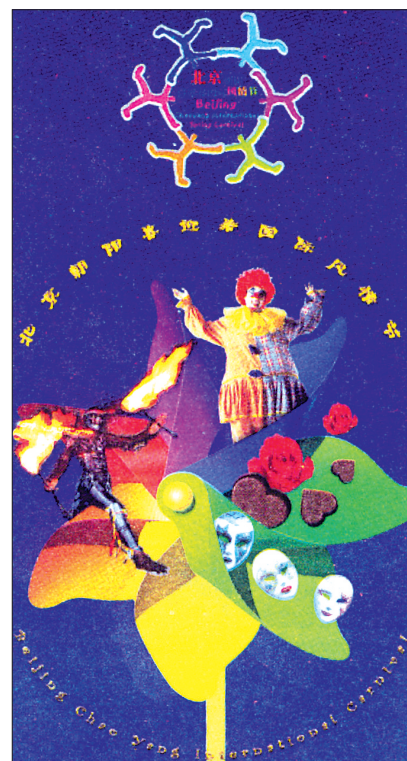
The ClubFootball Bar, Beijing's pace-setting football, theme bar & restaurant. Big Screen. Exclusive memorabilia signed by some of the world's top players. Unique, international menu. And, from World Cup Qualifiers to the English Premiership, UEFA Champions League to the Spanish Primera - we've got it all!

Feb 2: Derby County vs Tottenham, 7:55 pm; Feb 3: Leeds vs Liverpool, 7:55 pm; Rugby 5/6 Nations Champ's Ireland vs. Wales, 10 pm; Middlesbrough vs Charlton, 11:55 pm. All Live & English Premiership!

Add: No. 10 Taipingzhuang, near Red House Hotel, Chunxiulu, Dongzhimenwai Dajie, Chaoyang District. **Tel:** 64150988/64167786.

Spring Festival parties around Chaoyang Park

Enjoy the fun of Carnival at Chinese New Year - the traditional festive season. Stunning masks and costumes from Venice, Italian games and original food and drinks from Mardi Gras, New Orleans. From 12-2pm, enjoy fashion shows, Valentine's Day chocolate show, Koelsch Beer and more! **Where:** Chaoyang Park, Chaoyang District. **Tel:** book now! Contact 65056575.



Traditional Chinese Auspicious Designs

An introduction to those beautiful and mysterious patterns that can be seen in so many facets of life here. One of a series of talks on traditional Chinese culture. With English interpreter. **Where:** Multi-function hall at Beijing Language and Cultural Center for Diplomatic Missions, No. 7 Sanlitun Beixiaojie. **When:** Feb 23th, 7:30 pm-9:30pm. **Admission:** 180, 200 yuan. **Tel:** 65323005/65324303. Registration open now.

Hares Event

Hares: MaoFunction & Ratchucker
Venue: Mexican Wave at 2:00pm or Ditan Park (north gate) at 2:30pm.
More info: RDRhead@uop.com
International Newcomers Network. All international arrivals to Beijing are welcome to attend this chance to meet new people. Coffee, conversation and learn about life in Beijing. January's guest speaker will discuss Chinese festivals, holidays and customs. Monday 10 am - noon, January 28th, Function room, level 3 Athletic Center, Capital Mansions.

Contact: innchn@bigfoot.com

Weather

Saturday Clear to cloudy
February 2 Max: 8C. Min: -5C.

Sunday Clear to cloudy
February 3 Max: 6C. Min: -5C.

Monday Clear to cloudy
February 4 Max: 5C. Min: -4C.

Tuesday Cloudy to overcast, sleet
February 5 Max: 4C. Min: -4C.

Wednesday Overcast, sleet to cloudy
February 6 Max: 3C. Min: -3C.

Thursday Clear to clear
February 7 Max: 5C. Min: -6C.

Friday Clear to cloudy
February 8 Max: 5C. Min: -4C.

We are glad to receive your feedback. We will print employment, language exchange and accommodation info for individuals. Feel free to email us at bjtodayinfo@ynet.com or call 65902520. By Priscilla / Lydia

Movies

Happy Times (Xing Fu Shi Guang)

Where: Cherry Lane Movies, Sino-Japanese Exchange Youth Center, 40 Liangmaqiaolu, 1 km east of the Kempinski Hotel. **When:** Feb. 1, 8pm. **Tel:** 64663311.

Last Year at Marienbad



Directed by Alain Resnais, 1961. Starring Delphine Seyrig, Giorgio Albertazzi, Sacha Pitoeff. A classic old-style European art film. **Where:** Space for Imagination Coffee House and The loft. **When:** Feb. 9, 7pm, Space for Imagination Coffee House; Feb. 10, 3pm, The Loft. **Tel:** 62791280, 65065592.

Puerto Escondido (Italy 1992)

Director: Gabriele Salvatores. Mario leads a normal life, working in a Milan bank. His daily routine is shattered when he witnesses a murder and is shot himself by the killer, a deranged police commissioner. He teams up with Alex and Anita, a couple of Italians who lead him on a series of adventures and encounters with drug dealers, corrupt police officers and other weird characters.



(English subtitles)

Where: Cultural Office, Italian Embassy, 2 Dong'erjie, Sanlitun. **When:** Feb. 7, 7 pm, free. **Tel:** 65322187 or email italcult@public.bta.net.cn



Harry Potter

The young hero of four (so far) wildly popular books, the first of which has been adapted into an even more wildly popular movie. Harry is a young English wizard, who fights bravely against the forces of evil. The movie, a hugely hyped fantasy, has weaved magic in North American box office, whipping up a record \$93.5 million in the first three days after its release. It will premiere in Beijing on Jan 30.

Music

Li Bai Theme Symphonic Concert

Music composed by Guo Wenjing, Zhou Long, Ma Sicong. Performed by the China Symphonic Orchestra. Conductor: Li Xincuo. **Where:** Tianqiao Theater, 30 Beiwailu, Xuanwu District. **When:** Feb. 7, 7:30pm. **Admission:** 60-380 yuan. **Tel:** 63030300.

Piano Concert

By pianist Sheng Zhonguo and his wife. **Where:** National Library Concert Hall, 33 Zhongguancun Nandajie, Haidian District. **When:** Feb. 5, 7:30pm. **Admission:** 40-180 yuan. **Tel:** 88545348.

Chinese Minority Golden Songs Concert

Performed by the Central Minority Song & Dance Troupe. **Where:** National Library Concert Hall, 33 Zhongguancun Nandajie, Haidian District. **When:** Feb. 6, 7:30pm. **Admission:** 30-260 yuan. **Tel:** 88545348.



Chinese Rock & Roll

Bands: Tookoo, Sha Lu, Sofy's Garden, Forest and Zoo. **Where:** Honey Disco Bar, Xiqiao Hotel, bus 111, 105, 808 to Xinkai Hutong. **When:** Feb. 8, 9:30pm. **Admission:** 30 yuan (including one beverage). **Tel:** 68154488-38055.

Music at Bars

Sha Lu, Zhi Xi, Feb. 1; Tang Dynasty, the Silver Dust, Feb. 2; Gong Bing, Evening News, Feb. 8, Get Lucky Bar, 64299109. Afanti, Feb. 2, 9pm, Jam House, 65063845.

Performance

Gitano's Love

By Hungarian Stars Operetta Theater. The company's first public performance in China. **Where:** Century Theater, 40 Liangmaqiaolu, Chaoyang District. **When:** Feb. 1-7, 7:30pm. **Admission:** 120-680 yuan, 680 and 1,500 yuan VIP. **Tel:** 65593815, 65593786.



Sports



Shooting and Archery

Beijing Shenjian Sports Center (北京射箭运动中心), Ximachang Beikou, Fengtai District. 1pm-1am, 50 yuan/per hour. **Tel:** 67538114.

Capital Archery Sports Club (京城射箭运动俱乐部), North Gate of Worker's Stadium, Chaoyang District. **Tel:** 65936183.

Olympic Sports Center Paintball Strick Range (奥林匹克运动中心彩弹射击场), 1 Andinglu, Chaoyang District, about 10,000 square meters, 80 yuan/30 bullets, 8:30-4:30pm. **Tel:** 64921603.

Wangfangting Paintball Sports ground (万芳亭匹特博运动场), inside Wangfangting Park, Yangqiao, South Third Ring Road, **Tel:** 87297320.

Hike on the Wall

Where: Huairou County, north of Beijing. **Walking time:** three - four hours. **Difficulty:** 3-5 (reasonably easy to relatively difficult). What to take and wear: Daypack, water, lunch, good hiking boots, hat, gloves, scarf, layered clothing, windbreaker. **Cost:** 100 yuan including hot drinks and snacks. (Will be collected on the bus). **When:** Feb. 2.

BJ Hikers is open to everyone. To sign up, Email bjhikers@yahoo.co.uk or call Huilin at 13701003694.

Bars

Tang Dynasty is Back

After a break of several years Tang Dynasty are back. If you are familiar with the band, come to see how they have changed and grown, if you are not, just rock yourself here! **Where:** Get Lucky Bar, Taiyangong, east of Uni. Of International Business and Economics, near Taiyang Market. **When:** Feb 2, 9pm. **Tel:** 64299109.

Jazz Bar

For Jazz lovers, this is the only address in town. Angel Jazz Band

Activities

Shadow Puppet Exhibition

Works by Liu Jilin and others collected by the National Museum of Fine Arts. Some date back to the Ming and Qing dynasty. Beijing in Painters' Minds - Joint Oil Painting Exhibition by Wu Jinan, Zhao Yanchao and Gao Yuwu. Beauty in Beijing - Old Drinking Sets, Toys and Fish Tray Exhibition. Collected by Zhang Shouyi and Zhang Shouzhi. **Where:** Yanhuang Art Museum, 9 Huihonglu, Chaoyang District. **When:** Feb. 8-Mar. 3, 9am-4pm. **Admission:** 5 yuan. **Tel:** 64912902.

New Works Exhibition

Works by Xu Xi. Xu's first exhibition in Beijing after living in America for over 10 years. His works feature cityscapes in rain and snow. **Where:** Melodic Gallery, 14 Jianwaidajie, opposite the Friendship Store. **When:** Feb. 1-28, 9am-5pm. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 65158123.



Spring Festival Art Works Exhibition

Over 30 oils and watercolors **Where:** Qin Gallery, 38A Fangcaodi Beijie, Chaoyang District. **When:** Feb. 1-16, 9am-5pm. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 65074062.



Joint Exhibition for Spring Festival

Works by Shen Daohong, Liang Yan, Feng Yiming, Feng Linzhang and others. **Where:** West hall of Wan Fung Art Gallery, 136 Nanchizi Dajie, Dongcheng District.

performs live in a cozy atmosphere. **Where:** 2 Dongjiao Minxiang, Hotel Xinqiao, Dongcheng District. **When:** daily, 7:15 pm - midnight. **Tel:** 65133366 ext 2015.

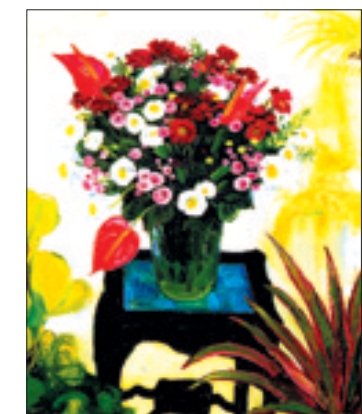
Sweetness (有戏酒吧)

Newly opened by the owner of Friend's Club, rock star Zang Tianshuo. Australian-Chinese DJ Chozzie mixes here every other weekend. **Where:** 19 Liangmaqiaolu, Chaoyang District. **When:** 11pm-late. **Tel:** 84562899.

Works by Liu Baomin, Xiao Peng, Li Chunyao, Lao Dao, Xiao Se and others. **Where:** East hall of Wan Fung Gallery, 136 Nanchizi Dajie, Dongcheng District. **When:** Feb. 9am-5pm. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 65233320.

Winter Show - The Four Seasons

Works by Xu Hongmin, Yin Chaoyang, Wang Xingwei, Duan Jianyu, Zheng Guogu. **Where:** 1F, China Art Archives & Warehouse, east side of Tiedaoqiao, Caochangdi Cun, Chaoyang District. **When:** till March, 2-5pm, Wed-Sun. **Tel:** 84565152.



Burst with Joy Exhibition

Featuring the still flowers paintings by 16 artists, as Chen Junde, Duan Zhengqu, Xu Min, Li Jiangfeng. **Where:** Soka Art Center, corner of the Xiushui Dongjie and RitanDongyijie, 100 meters from the British Embassy. Changing Tradition - Exhibition by Gu Liming. He created abstract art by using western style of creation. **When:** Feb. 2-Mar. 3. (closed from Feb. 9-18 for the Spring Festival), 10am-9pm, closed Mon. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 65860344.



Cultural Tour



Old Japanese bank on the corner of Zhengyilu and Jiaomin Alley

Photos by East

The Foreigner's Hutong

By Jiang Zhong

During the Ming and Qing dynasties, central Beijing fell under the administration of two counties. The area east of what is now Tian'anmen Square was governed by Wanping County, while the part to the west of the square came under the jurisdiction of Daxing County. Up until the end of the Qing Dynasty, an alley at the conjunction of these two jurisdictions was Beijing's embassy district. Neither Wanping County nor Daxing County, or even the Qing government itself could intervene in affairs here.

Jiangmi Hutong (Alley), now Jiaomin Hutong (交民巷), came into being in the Yuan Dynasty when construction first began on the Forbidden City. At that time, a canal ran along the eastern wall of the Forbidden City. Running from Jishuitan in the north of Beijing, it flowed into the Tonghui Canal, which connected the north and south Grand Canals, and via which all manner of goods were shipped to the emperors' palace.

The ships anchored in the outer city, mainly around the area of today's Jiaomin Alley. As one of the most important goods to pass through the city gates was jiangmi (polished glutinous rice), a favourite of the nobles, the alley became known as Jiangmi Alley. Much later, towards the end of the Qing Dynasty, an official decided the name "Polished Glutinous Rice Alley" was a little vulgar for a place of such importance, and the name was changed to Jiaomin Alley, similar in pronunciation, but far more distinguished in tone.

Jiangmi Alley was bisected by Zhengyangmen Street. The eastern half was named East Jiangmi Alley and the western, West Jiangmi Alley. When the third Ming Dynasty Emperor Zhuli moved the capital of his kingdom back to Beijing in 1421, he also expanded the coverage of the inner city, including in it Jiangmi Alley, by that time the longest street in Beijing.

Owing to its key location next to Zhengyangmen Tower, the entrance to the Forbidden City, Jiangmi Alley was once filled with temples, court departments, imperial members' residences, and guildhalls. In both the Ming and Qing dynasties, East Jiaomin Alley functioned as the government's foreign liaison centre. The departments dealing with foreign affairs and ethical problems were all concentrated here, while foreign envoys and representatives of national minorities lived in the Huitongguan (Liaison Hotel). There was also a translation department set up here.



In 1694, the envoy of the Russian government signed a contract with the Qing government on the building of trade relations between the two countries. In the same year, the Russian Hall, which served more or less as an embassy, was built in East Jiaomin Alley. This was the first foreign representative office built for a single country in Beijing.

Since Koreans accounted for the majority of the foreign population in the alley, the Qing government also allowed the construction of a Korean Hall. The Mongolians then followed suit.

With the development of relations with foreign countries, the Qing government allowed more and more embassies to be constructed in the alley.

On one occasion, the government decided all these foreigners were a little too close for comfort, with the alley just 500 meters south of the Forbidden City, and suggested the foreign neighbours might like to relocate their embassies to Yuanmingyuan, (the Garden of Gardens), near the Summer Palace, however the invitation was rejected. After several confrontations between the Qing government and the foreigners culminating in the suppression of the Boxer Rebellion and the subsequent signing of the Xinchou Treaty in 1901 between the Qing government and the eight allied forces, the foreigners were conceded the rights of occupying the alley permanently. Local Chinese residents were forced out and the eight allied forces even stationed troops in the alley, effectively turning it into a foreign concession, with an area of around 667,000 square meters. In order to enhance their economic presence in China, some major commercial agencies also set up offices in the alley, such as the National City Bank of New York and the U.K.'s Hong Kong Shanghai Banking Corporation.

Nowadays, all foreign embassies are located in the Beijing's various embassy districts in Chaoyang District, and East Jiaomin Alley is just another quiet Beijing Hutong.

Bicycle tour at the alley

For a cyclist, fifteen minutes might be enough for a cursory glance at the relics that remain. However, if you want to escape the noise of the city for a while, there are still a few places where you can lose yourself in the past, at least for a little while. You should begin your tour from the east end of the alley, finishing up at Tian'anmen Square.

The first stop must be the Catholic Church that stands by the crossroads at Taijichang Dajie. It remains intact, except for the auxiliary building, which is now occupied by a primary school. Whether you attend a mass there or just admire the fancy carvings and statues, the 100-year-old newly renovated gothic church should not be missed.

Opposite the church lies the old complex of the Belgian Embassy, now the Zijin Guest House.

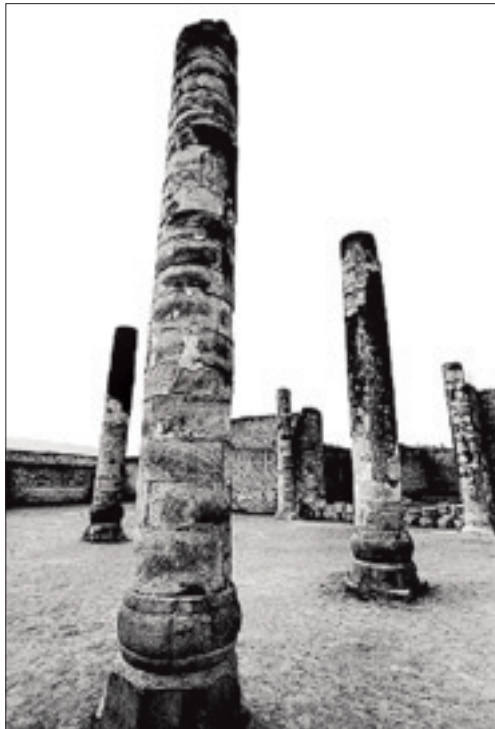
Leaving the old Belgian Embassy, ride to the crossroads and turn right (north) onto Taijichang Dajie. In this street you will find the main building of the former Italian Embassy at number one. This two-story building, now occupied by a government department, is well preserved. The decoration inside lends the whole building an air of magnificence. Bicycle on northward; turn right (east) at the second T-intersection into Taijichang Toutiao. At the mouth of the alley, you will find the French words RUE HART (Hart Street) carved on the low wall, works of one hundred years ago. At number three, you will find the old Austrian Embassy, decorated with magnificently ornate carvings. Return to Taijichang Dajie and ride southward. You will see a souvenir shop on your left just before Taijichang Dajie intersection. Named Yuzhang Culture & Art Centre, this shop sells Chinese knots and other art wares rarely seen in other shops, such as protective talismans made of polymer clay. If you are interested, you can try your hand at making one of these yourself, under the guidance of the shop assistants. The shop actually runs courses teaching this skill, with classes given by teachers from art schools.

Turn right (west) at the crossroads. You will see the former French Embassy at 15 Dongjiaominxiang (East Jiaomin Alley). This is the largest complex remaining in the alley. Most buildings inside, including the small garden remain unchanged. The complex is now occupied by the municipal government, and you will find alert eyes behind each heavy iron gate.

Heading on westward, an elegant building at 19 Dongjiaominxiang will catch your eye, immediately recognizable as a post office. Formerly the French Post Office, the building is now a restaurant named Jingyuan. If you are making your tour around mid-day, this is an ideal place to stop for lunch. You can eat your meal by the window, to the accompaniment of beautiful music played on the old gramophone, while looking at the elegant western style buildings along the tree-lined street.

After lunch, bicycle on to the second crossroads, the intersection of East Jiaomin Alley and Zhengyilu. In Zhengyilu stands an old Japanese Bank, at number A 4, now occupied by Minsheng Bank. Sitting in the bank, you can take a close look at the old decorations remained there.

Continue on along Jiaomin Alley to the old Hong Kong Shanghai Banking Corporation (No. 34) and the National City Bank of New York (No. 36) next to each other on your left. The Hong Kong Shanghai Bank building is currently being restored, and it is not possible to go inside. The National City Bank of New York is now the Police Museum, where there are all kinds of interesting historical relics on display.



Stone columns at an ancestral temple

Wonder for ancient travellers

By Jiang Zhong

Liukeng (流坑) Village in Jiangxi Province should be called a large village even today. The whole village includes mountains, running rivers and, of course, numerous historic relics and old residences.

Liukeng has a history over 1,000 years and was popular with travellers of the Ming and Qing dynasties. Xu Xiake, a famous traveller of the Ming Dynasty, once wrote in his journal that the village housed more than ten thousand grand complexes. The description of the village's scale here must be something of an exaggeration, but we can see that Xu must have been astonished at the village's grandeur. Xu also noted that the majority of Liukeng villagers shared the same surname, Dong. This is still the case today.

Unlike other old villages of the Ming and Qing dynasties around China, Liukeng features highly defensive walls and watchtowers, more like an ancient city. Even more unusual, the village features some sixty ancestral temples. This phenomenon indicates that the feudal system adopted by ancient China had a great influence on the villagers' mind and ideology.

The villagers of Liukeng were enthusiastic advocates of the court examination system. Till the early Song Dynasty, some schools were set up in the village, and the children were all educated. For this reason, people of Liukeng were disproportionately successful in the court examinations during the Song Dynasty. The records of the village hold detailed information about each successful examinee.

When you travel to Liukeng, do not overlook the couplets carved or painted on the gate of each residence. These couplets can tell you many things about the owners, their social status, histories and aspirations; and they were all written by great calligraphers of the Ming and Qing dynasties. The locals always joked that a wise thief should steal the door planks only.

Getting there: train 1453 from Beijing Western Railway Station to Nanchang (departs Beijing at 12:15pm, arrived in Nanchang at 7:30am the next morning), then bus to Liukeng; you can enjoy traditional celebrating ceremonies there during Spring Festival.



Great Wall Buffs

Strange Rock Carvings at Baima Pass Great Wall

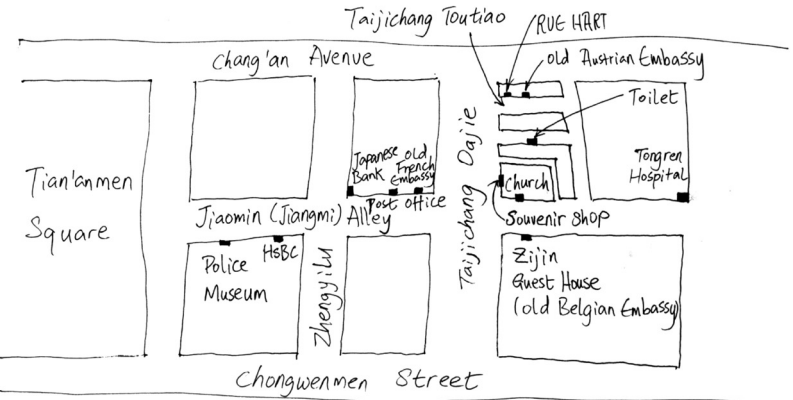
By Rocketman

There is no direct evidence linking the rock carvings at Baima Pass Great Wall to those at Miyun County. However, it should be a must for you to try interpreting the strange characters on the 50-meter-wide and eight-meter-high rock while you are hiking along this section of Great Wall. The inscriptions in the rock wall facing the south are written in ancient Nepalese, Mongolian and Tibetan languages, and all are translations of the same Buddhist verses.

On the slope of the small hill to the east of the rock stands a two-meter-high tablet bearing a large character in the script of one of the small countries that once lay to the west of ancient China. It was said to be a "blending" character implying a very profound Buddhist doctrine. The two rock carvings are indicative of the prosperity of Ming and Qing dynasty trade with neighbouring countries in the west.

Baima Pass Great Wall is a favourite for wall enthusiasts, and has a strongly distinctive character. To cope with the extremely arduous terrain around this area, the ancient engineers adopted an ingenious design at Baima Pass. At places where the mountain was simply too steep to build on, they would reconstruct the actual mountain and use it as a natural barrier. So you will find quite a few small sections of baseless Great Wall featuring the same colour as the mountains nearby. Baima Pass tower is badly damaged, only part of its south wall and the entrance remain standing.

For more information visit:
<http://www.thegreatwall.com.cn>



A building of the old Belgian Embassy



Grand hall at the old Belgian Embassy



Behind the old iron gate, the Catholic Church complex is kept intact



Have a happy lunch hour at the old French post office